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# Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk June 26, 2016

Mid edition No 718



REFERENDUM

## The most influential man in politics?

**Nigel Farage has delivered on his dream but what will a Brexit mean for the county? Full Kent results inside**

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# Kent on Sunday

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## Brexit is a triumph for Nigel Farage's conviction

LOVE him or loathe him, the political might of Nigel Farage has perhaps never been stronger than it is this weekend.

Because the man from Westerham has single-handedly not only put the question of our European membership front and centre of British politics, but has now helped exit become a reality.

It is not over-stating the case that he may indeed be the most influential British politician in the country.

All the more remarkable given that a little over a year ago, he was defeated in his bid to win the South Thanet seat in the general election, and immediately delivered on his promise to resign as the leader of Ukip. Albeit for about a day. Since then, he has endured a year where his party indulged in bitter in-fighting and he spent much of it out of view.

Yet he returned to the spotlight in



Editor **Chris Britcher**

the final stages of the Leave campaign and help drive them over the finish line. Fears his public persona puts people off failed to materialise.

Quite whether his influence will deliver the wealth and success for this nation remains to be seen. Yet his place in history is now assured.

And just who would bet against Ukip merging back into the Tory party, now its key aim has been achieved, and Mr Farage taking a place in a future cabinet? It seems almost inevitable.

For all of us now, however, we must be clear a vote for Brexit is not a vote against the migrants who come here to work and integrate into our societies, nor is it a vote against the peoples of Europe. On that we must stand firm and not falter.

This nation has been enhanced by a blend of cultures while retaining its distinct personality and that must remain the case.

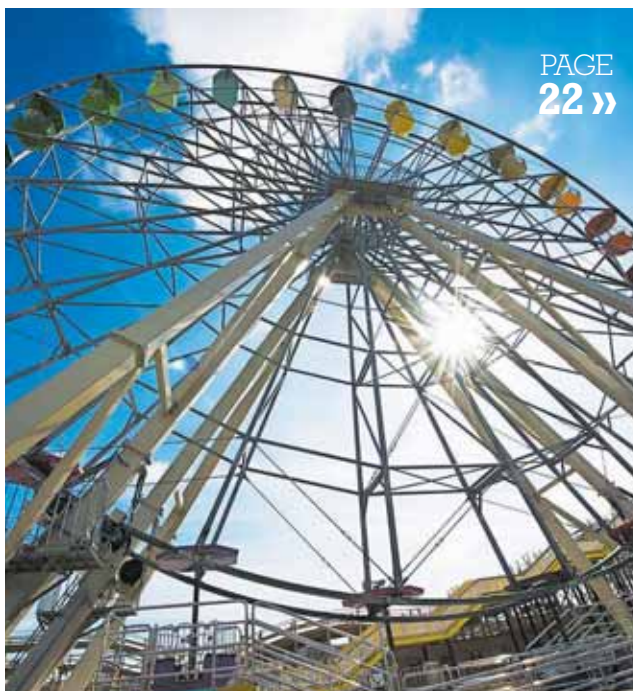
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## £2.2m up for grabs in armoured vehicle hunt

**Exclusive** by Tom Pyman  
tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

POLICE chiefs are on the hunt for an armoured vehicle to be used in incidents of major public disorder on the streets of the county, KoS can exclusively reveal.

Matthew Scott, the recently-elected police and crime commissioner is inviting tenders for the provision of such a vehicle in a contract worth up to £2.2m.

It will be used to replace the force's current vehicle which police chiefs feel has gone beyond its shelf life.

The out-going vehicle is likely to be recycled or sold on in an attempt to recoup some funds.

A source close to Mr Scott refused to disclose details of the nature of the vehicle, claiming he wants potential contractors to be innovative and come up with fresh ideas of how to equip the vehicle so it is best fit for purpose.

Home secretary Theresa May banned the use of water cannon in the UK last year but it is thought the vehicle will come well equipped to deal with public disorder.

A framework agreement is in



**CONTRACT:** Kent police and crime commissioner is inviting tenders for a new armoured vehicle

place that allows other police forces in the counties of Essex, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk to assess the vehicle Kent Police hopes to obtain and place a similar order should they wish.

Therefore the value of the vehicle itself is a fraction of the £2.2m, which is the maximum amount the potential contractor could receive from selling to the seven forces.

A spokesperson for the office of Mr Scott told KoS: "Each year the office of the Kent police and crime commissioner sets aside money for Kent Police to replace and refresh its vehicle fleet, to meet the needs of a modern police service.

"The force's existing armoured vehicle – a specialist vehicle for use in responding to major incidents – has reached the point where replacing it is economically more viable than

its continued maintenance.

"The tender contract includes an option to allow other police forces to buy from Kent's chosen supplier as well.

"This maximises the economies of scale and encourages potential suppliers to submit competitive bids, ensuring the best value price is secured."

The invitation of tenders closes on July 11, with the contract set to commence on August 1 this year.

## Fallon forced to make an apology and pay compensation to imam

CONSERVATIVE Michael Fallon has issued a public apology and agreed to pay to damages to an imam he described as an Islamic State supporter.

Suliman Gani was at the centre of a storm during last month's London mayoral election campaign when senior Conservatives including Mr Fallon and the prime minister questioned the judgment of the Labour candidate, Sadiq Khan, for frequently sharing a platform with him.

However, the imam launched legal action against the defence secretary and MP for Sevenoaks, who has since apologised for the remarks.

In a statement on his website, directed at Mr Gani, Mr Fallon said: "On May 7, 2016 I was interviewed on BBC Radio 4's Today programme.

"During that interview I described you as a supporter of Daesh/Islamic State – something that is entirely untrue.

"When I did this I knew that it had been said on a BBC television programme some weeks earlier but I

was unaware that the BBC had corrected that statement and had apologised to you. Had I known of that correction and apology I would not have repeated the statement.

"I was made aware of the BBC's correction and apology a few hours after the broadcast and immediately issued a statement in an effort to put the record straight.

"I issued a further statement to the same effect on May 11, 2016, which included my apology to you for repeating the untrue statement.

"I accept that you are entirely opposed to Daesh/Islamic State, that you regard it as incompatible with your religious and moral beliefs, and that you have spoken out publicly against it.

"I repeat my apology for the error that I made and for the distress that it caused to you and your family.

"In recognition of that distress I have agreed to make a payment of compensation and to meet your reasonable legal costs."

## Rocks rain down on workers fixing damaged railway line

ROCK-hurling yobs have been targeting workmen attempting to repair the railway line between Folkestone and Dover.

In one incident over recent days, workers were missed by just inches prompting extra security measures and a warning to anyone involved.

It comes as a major milestone to rebuild the railway at Dover was

reached as tonnes of cement was put in place to reinforce the track. It's been shut since cracks were spotted in the sea wall at Christmas.

Dover and Deal MP Charlie Elphicke said: "I appeal to anyone who may know who these yobs are to come forward and to parents to talk to their children about the dangers of this kind of behaviour."

## Arrest after nine hour rape ordeal at tourist car park

A TEENAGE girl was allegedly raped several times in the car park of Joss Bay after a man in his 20s gave her a lift home the night before.

The incident on Saturday June 11, saw the victim raped a number of times between 6.30am and 3.10pm.

He had allegedly offered his victim a lift home after an evening out, but instead of taking her home he parked the car at the car park in

Broadstairs.

Det Con Stuart Tracey said: "June 11 was a warm sunny Saturday and there were lots of people in the Joss Bay area. We would like to hear from anyone who saw the pair. They had been in a silver Volkswagen car which had been parked in the car park."

A 28-year-old man has been bailed in connection with the incident.





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## Flood alerts as heavy showers and storms hit

STORMS and torrential rains caused flooding across the county during the week.

Kent Fire & Rescue teams were called out to Eastchurch, on Sheppey, Herne Bay, Margate and Sittingbourne after the heavens opened overnight Wednesday into Thursday.

Emergency teams said most incidents were low key

and there were no major problems, although they did have to pump water away from properties in Crown Road, Sittingbourne, after water gathered. Also in the town, a storm drain had been lifted up by running water, leaving a two foot hole in Staplehurst Road.

The weather forecast is set to be mild and generally dry this weekend, with occasional showers next week.



**TENSION:** Can England get a win?

## Euro 2016 big game warning to landlords

PUBS across the county are being urged to ensure they have a TV licence ahead of Monday night's crunch Euro 2016 second round clash against Iceland.

Thousands of fans are expected to flock to various watering holes up and down the county to watch Roy Hodgson's team attempt to reach the quarter finals during the clash in Nice.

But the TV licensing authority says it will be cracking down on any venue showing the match which does not have a valid licence.

Those found breaking the law run the risk of a court prosecution and fine of up to £1,000 per offence plus costs.

Ben Craig, spokesperson for TV Licensing in London and the south east said: "With over 1,390 pubs in Kent, many fans will choose to watch the match in their local pub, soaking up the atmosphere whilst following all the twists and turns of what is sure to be an exciting game.

"It's important pubs and clubs are correctly licensed and we know landlords and managers want to stay within the law, which is why we are issuing this advice ahead of the England versus Iceland match."

The big game - the final match in the first knock-out stage - will be shown at 8pm on ITV, on Monday June 27.

## MP's Facebook death threat just days after the tragic death of Jo Cox

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

POLICE have released a man on bail after a threatening message was sent to a high profile Kent MP via social media website Facebook.

The message, posted on the wall of South Thanet MP Craig Mackinlay, read: "Another MP that needs..." followed by emojis of a gun, a knife and a laughing face.

Now officers investigating the message sent last Saturday have confirmed the 28-year-old man arrested on Wednesday has been bailed pending further enquiries until Sunday.

It came less than a week after Labour MP Jo Cox was shot and stabbed in her west Yorkshire constituency.

Mr Mackinlay said: "Following the shocking events of last Thursday, it is in the most appalling taste that I have received a death threat using social media, with 'emojis' of a gun, knife and laughing face recommending a similar means



**THREATENED:** Craig Mackinlay

by which I should be executed.

"Sadly, all MPs receive abusive communications, but in the wake of the murder of Jo Cox MP, I have passed on the details to Kent Police who have allocated a senior detec-

tive to investigate whether the Malicious Communications Act has been breached.

"Whilst I can take the rough and tumble of modern politics, my wife and staff are obviously concerned about their daily activities in serving the public.

"They have a right to feel safe, and I thank Kent Police for not only considering security at my office more closely, but also for the contact they have made with me following the murder of Jo Cox MP last week."

Dartford's Gareth Johnson told KoS last week that he didn't know of an MP that hadn't been threatened, while Dover representative Charlie Elphicke admitted he had looked into beefing up his personal security since Christmas.

Vince Maple, leader of the Labour group on Medway Council, added: "I disagree with Craig on #EURef but no elected representative should have to deal with threats of that nature."

■ Read Mr Mackinlay's response to the EU referendum result on page 19.

## Police not linking two raids on Sikh temples

A LARGE amount of cash has been stolen during a burglary at a Sikh temple in Gravesend.

Crooks raided the Siri Guru Nanak Darbar Gurdawara in Saddington Street at some point between midnight and 2am on Friday morning.

At around 2.10am police stopped a vehicle in Germander Avenue, Halling.

A 26-year-old London man was detained by officers. He was arrested in connection with the burglary.

Officers were searching for two further suspects who reportedly made off from the vehicle.

Police say the incident is not linked to an act of criminal damage to a disused Sikh temple in Clarence Place, Gravesend, that was reported on Wednesday and apparently filmed by those who took part. The video of which was circulating on social media.

Anyone with information should call 01474 366149 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

## Clark to feel wrath of garden town fighters

CAMPAIGNERS in Shepway have warned communities and local government secretary Greg Clark he will have a fight on his hands if the government accepts the council's plans to build a garden town.

Shepway District Council's cabinet rejected criticism to put forward an expression of interest to central government to build 12,000 homes.

The opposition groups have expressed their anger on a number of occasions in recent weeks, including a sit-in protest in the council chamber, and a march along the A20. Now David Plumstead of the Otterpool Newtown Coalition has written to Mr Clark, who is also the MP for Tunbridge Wells.

He said: "These developments when added to Shepway's proposal for a 4,000 unit lorry park at M20 junction 11 and its plan for Otterpool Newtown and miles of new roads would completely change the character of this part of Kent, sow the seeds of a major conurbation covering over 100 square miles and seriously challenge use of the term 'The Garden of England'."

## Nominating learning disability heroes

THOSE individuals, businesses and services who have gone the extra mile to improve the lives of people with learning disabilities are to be rewarded in the third annual Kent Learning Disability Partnership Awards.

Organised by Kent County Council, nominations are now being accepted for six categories, covering employers, housing, health and citizenship.

KCC cabinet member for adult social care and public health, Graham Gibbens, said: "These awards will help recognise the companies, services and people who go the extra mile to help give people with a learning disability more choice, improved independence and access to their communities.

"This helps them live their lives without barriers and we hope highlighting these achievements will encourage others to look at what they can do to support people with a learning disability in their community."

A judging panel will review the nominations after the closing date on Friday, July 22 at 5pm.



# Bluewater unveils proposals to create 2,300 jobs at centre

By Simon Allin

simon.allin@archant.co.uk

PLANS to expand shopping complex giant Bluewater and create up to 2,300 jobs for local residents have been unveiled this week.

Providing up to 300,000sq ft of new space, the plans supersede the proposals approved three years ago to extend Bluewater's Village at the site in Greenhithe.

The development alongside the village dining area is planned to provide space for home, garden, sports and leisure retailers and is hailed by the centre's general manager as "the exciting next step in Bluewater's evolution".

There are also proposals to create further 'mini-major' stores on Bluewater's existing malls by expanding into currently under-utilised space.

If the plans are approved, the jobs will be made available through the outlet's in-house job centre - the Learning Shop, which will handle the vacancies.

Robert Goodman, Bluewater's general manager said: "The plans are a response to the predicted significant growth in the local population, and the desire from some of best known brands in the UK and overseas to open statement stores at Bluewater.

"We believe these proposals will ensure



**PLANS:** How it could look at the shopping complex

Bluewater continues to thrive for many years to come, providing guests, be they local residents or visitors travelling from much further afield, with an offer, environment and experience that is exemplary."

Conservative MP for Dartford, Gareth Johnson, said: "I welcome these proposals, which are an important evolution of Bluewater. They address the needs of residents, visitors and the business community, and deal with an ever-growing array of competitors.

"The plans have also been devised with the community in mind, as evidenced by the commitment to deliver 2,300 new jobs via The Learning Shop."

Consultation is now taking place with a number of stakeholders ahead of the submission of an official application later this summer.

If consent is granted, work is expected to begin in 2017.

Bluewater is the county's biggest and busiest shopping complex.

## Warning after fake bailiff entered home

A TRICKSTER has been calling at a home in Dartford claiming to be a bailiff and demanding property worth £600 to settle an unpaid fine.

The incident happened in Cousins Walk when a man dressed in a uniform entered a home. He left after being pressed for paperwork and, when the company he claimed to work for were contacted, they had no record of him or of the home owner's address.

## Cop hurt after being trapped by his car

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after a police officer was trapped between his own vehicle and van on Thursday afternoon.

The officer received his injuries in Lullingstone Avenue, Swanley, shortly after 3.30pm.

One man has been arrested by police investigating the incident.

## Care home blaze

THREE people were treated with breathing problems at a care home in Lydd just after midnight on Friday.

Paramedics and fire crews were called to the home on the High Street after a blaze started in a basement bathroom. Two people were suffering the effects of breathing in smoke while a third had breathing difficulties.

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# 'Missing' Matthew is back in UK after being found in Spain

THE parents of a Sittingbourne roofer, found in Spain after vanishing for six years, have confirmed their son is back in the UK.

Matthew Green, 32, disappeared in May 2010 after saying he was going to visit friends in London for the weekend and never returned.

His parents, Pauline and Jim, were then told last month that he was found alive and was refusing help and medicine at a Spanish psychiatric ward. They were then reunited with their son.

Friends and family set up a funding page to help bring Mr Green back to Kent, and have so far raised over £4,000.

Now, they have confirmed he is back in the country, but will not be returning to their home yet.

Mrs Green said: "Matt was



brought back to the UK last week and is now being cared for in hospital and is receiving the treatment he requires.

"He is still very, very poorly and it is going to take a long time until he is

well enough to come home, and that's of course if he wants to do that.

"Again that is a long way off, it is all baby steps at the moment but we will get there no matter how long it takes."

# Medway man jailed over £2.4m Gatwick theft plot

A GILLINGHAM man is one of 15 Gatwick Airport workers jailed this week for a plot to steal millions of pounds worth of goods from their employer.

Masses of cigarettes, perfumes, alcohol and electrical goods with a combined value of £2,432,665 were stolen between January 1 and August 1, 2013.

The large-scale conspiracy was carried out by employees who loaded planes with items belonging to a catering company which supplies airlines at the airport.

Karamjeet Singh, 54, formerly of Richmond Road, was jailed for four years after being convicted of conspiracy to steal and money laundering.

The case first came to light when, in February 2013, the catering company was made

aware of what appeared to be a large stock discrepancy of duty-payable goods at Gatwick Airport.

After an internal investigation identified a large-scale theft by a number of employees, the company approached Sussex Police for assistance.

Inspector Andy Richardson said: "This was a well-organised operation on a huge scale in which a number of individuals conspired to steal millions of pounds worth of goods from a catering company.

"In doing so, they breached the trust of their employer.

"Theft on any level is totally unacceptable. It will not be tolerated and if you are caught, it's highly likely you will lose your job and you may go to prison."

## Honouring Pocahontas

A PROGRAMME of events to mark 400 years since Pocahontas was buried in Gravesend has been launched.

The Pocahontas 400 programme culminates on March 21, 2017, with a procession from the Thames Riverside, to St George's Church where a service will be held.

## CCG faces the public

A PUBLIC meeting of the governing body of the NHS West Kent Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) will take place on June 28 at 1.30pm, at the Village Hotel in Maidstone.

Questions can also be posed in writing – email [westkent.ccg@nhs.net](mailto:westkent.ccg@nhs.net) or phone 01732 375200.

## Stuck in mud at park

EMERGENCY teams had to swing into action to rescue a woman who had become stuck in the mud in Maidstone.

Crews were sent to Mote Park at around 5pm on Wednesday and pulled the woman free after getting stuck up to her knees. She was not injured in the drama.

## Green light for homes

PLANNING permission has been granted by Dover District Council for 277 new houses in the village of Aylesham.

They will form part of the Aylesham Garden Village development, which will ultimately provide 1,200 new houses during the next eight years.

6 NEW PLOTS AVAILABLE
 

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## Top Three Stories



### 1. Bishop urges prayer

Trevor Willmott's referendum reaction

### 2. No change at Eurotunnel

Folkestone to Calais service unaffected

### 3. Lydd care home fire

Three people required treatment

## The Essential Guide:



### ...to Operation Stack

Everything you need to know about the way lorries are stacked on the M20



**FEATURED PHOTO GALLERY:** Fiona Bruce and the Antiques Roadshow visited Ightham Mote in Sevenoaks last week. See page 36 for the full story.

## Missed last week's...?

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## Top Three Blogs



### 1. Will Three Lions roar?

Time to be positive about England's chances

### 2. Time to take a step back

Tales of the ups and downs of gambling

### 3. Lorry lane required

Why HGVs drive us round the bend

## Results of the KoS Online Poll

### How far will England go at Euro 2016?

- 1 Last 16 - 30%
- 2 Quarter-finals - 35%
- 3 Semi-finals - 30%
- 4 Final - 5%

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**FREEDOM:** Abdul Haroun, 40, pictured right, was successful in his claim for asylum after his dangerous route into the country saw him emerge on the English side of the tunnel in Cheriton

# Sudanese who walked through the Channel Tunnel goes free

He was sentenced to nine months, but freed after spending time in custody. **Tom Pugh** was in court

**A** SUDANESE man who was granted asylum in the UK after trekking through the Channel Tunnel has walked free from court after pleading guilty to an obstruction charge.

Abdul Rahman Haroun, 40, was granted permission to stay in Britain after being caught walking near the end of the 31-mile sub-sea tunnel at Cheriton, near Folkestone on August 4 last year.

Ahead of a trial at Canterbury Crown Court, he changed his plea to guilty to "obstructing an engine or a carriage using a railway".

Judge Adele Williams sentenced him to nine months in jail but freed him due to time he has already spent in custody.

Sentencing Haroun, the judge told him: "You not only put your own life in danger but, in my judgment, you put the lives and safety of others in danger."

Risking death by dodging high-speed trains, Haroun walked through the Channel Tunnel towards waiting British police officers on the Kent side at around 6pm.

Prosecutor Philip Bennetts QC said: "He was asked how he had got into the tunnel and he said 'I came from France, always trying to get here.'"

He said he jumped over the perimeter fence by himself before "walking sometimes on the right and sometimes on the left" in the tunnel, Mr Bennetts said.

Up until then, his perilous journey had involved travelling for a month to Egypt, then Libya before crossing

the sea to Italy, a previous hearing was told. He then made his way to France and Calais.

In an interview with the Home Office, Haroun described how he had been persecuted by the Janjaweed militia, forcing him to flee his home in 2004.

He ended up in a camp at the Kari-Yari dam on the Sudan-Chad border, where he was said to have spent many years living in difficult circumstances, the previous hearing was told.

After reaching France, Haroun spent up to seven days in Calais before walking through the tunnel.

Speaking through an interpreter, he told police following his arrest: "I came here for protection and to be safe."

He added: "It was the only solution."

And he went on: "I didn't have any orders... there wasn't any other solution."

Mr Bennetts said Haroun pleaded not guilty at Medway Magistrates' Court on August 6 last year to the carriage obstruction charge, under Section 36 of the Malicious Damages Act 1861.

Then, on Christmas Eve, the Home Office recognised him as a refugee and granted him asylum, a decision criticised by some, including Channel operator Eurotunnel, who said it might encourage copycat attempts.

The case against Haroun was put in the balance following the asylum decision but following legal argument a judge later ruled that proceedings would go ahead before his change of plea on Wednesday.

Mr Bennetts said the security breach by Haroun had caused "significant disruption" and a "significant economic consequence" and led to delays of up to four hours for cross-Channel travellers.

Richard Thomas, defending, said in mitigation: "This is not a case where there was a mass influx, or causing damage or assaulting tunnel staff."

"This is a case where the defendant was recognised in fact to be a refugee."

He said Haroun's refugee status gives him "credibility", adding: "In fact he was recognised in real haste."

The judge acknowledged that Haroun had travelled from Sudan "in a state of desperation" when he decided to walk through the tunnel.

But she said: "The reason why the courts of the United Kingdom take such a serious view of this criminality is that those who enter in this way seek to evade the authorities, who can, therefore, have no check upon who is entering the country."

"In the world in which we live of international crime and terrorism that is a very serious matter."

She went on: "You caused enormous inconvenience to a large number of people. It caused significant economic loss. The Channel Tunnel and the uninterrupted operation of the tunnel are of great importance to both the United Kingdom and France."

"Let there be no mistake, disrupting the operation of the Channel Tunnel in this way is a very serious offence which will almost always

result in an immediate sentence of imprisonment."

The judge noted that two other people unconnected to Haroun had been jailed earlier this year after walking through the Chunnel.

But she added: "Each of those defendants committed this offence in more serious circumstances than you have done."

Countless migrants have risked death trying to enter Britain from near Calais where an estimated 6,000 people who have fled war, poverty and persecution are camped at the Jungle.

Anglo-French efforts have been made to bolster border security, including the investment of millions of pounds in fencing at Coquelles and extra perimeter fencing.

But rising number of refugees are still flocking to the camp, according to census figures released this week by Help Refugees and L'Auberge des Migrants.

Volunteers said the number of unaccompanied children has risen by 32 per cent in one month. The youngest child without an adult at the camp is 10 years old.

The agencies said messages from both British and French authorities were doing little to deter people displaced from unstable regions from making the journeys.

Refugees from Afghanistan are the largest national group in the camp, making up 36 per cent of its inhabitants, while those from Sudan make up 32 per cent.

Richard Thomas, defending, had unsuccessfully applied to stay the case as an abuse of

process at an earlier hearing.

The judge had considered whether Haroun's actions could be deemed to have been "reasonably or necessarily committed" and offered him protection under Article 31 of the UN Convention.

During the previous hearing, the judge said that, had Haroun been charged with documentary or deception offences, he would have had a defence available to him.

But she said the real issue was whether Haroun's actions, which caused a "significant amount of logistic and economic disruption", could be said to be "reasonably and necessarily committed".

The judge in turn ruled that the offence Haroun was charged with did not fall within the protection offered by Article 31 and the application was thrown out.

During the sentencing, Judge Williams questioned why Haroun had not sought asylum in the first safe country he arrived in.

A statement released by case-worker Sadie Castle, of Kent Defence, said Haroun intended to appeal against his conviction.

The statement said: "Mr Haroun has been released. He is relieved that the crown court proceedings have concluded and that he will not be returning to prison."

"Mr Haroun has pleaded guilty following a legal ruling by the judge. He obviously respects that ruling but will in due course be appealing his conviction at the Court of Appeal."

"His priority now is to focus on rebuilding his life in the UK."



# Our growers serve up an ace crop of summer strawberries

As Wimbledon gets under way this week, the inclement weather has not spoilt the county's harvest as famers predict both big numbers and super taste for the traditional favourite summer berries

By Chris Murphy  
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

**S**TRAWBERRY farmers say we should be bracing ourselves for a bumper crop this summer - with the British weather's erratic behaviour ensuring they should be tastier than ever.

With Wimbledon starting tomorrow (Monday) the classic soft fruit can expect to see a massive surge in sales as we look to emulate the strawberries and cream dishes served up in SW19.

What's more, it will be Kent strawberries seen being scoffed around the courts of the All England Lawn Tennis Championships, with its regular supplier once again shipping tonnes of the fruit to the sporting venue.

Hugh Lowe Farms in Mereworth, near Maidstone, is a family-owned farming company established over 120 years ago.

Managing director Marion Regan said: "Despite a warmer than average winter and a cooler, wetter spring and early summer, strawberry crops have grown well. The cooler conditions have allowed the berries to develop good flavour and the new systems of growing, on table tops, mean they are less susceptible to problems caused by damp weather."

"The market for strawberries grew by 11 per cent last year and as a major producer of the berries, Kent contributed significantly to that. As a Kent grower I'm hoping that strawberries continue to be the nation's favourite fruit."

"We are trying new varieties and this year two in particular have been outstanding. They are Malling Centenary, bred at East Malling Research, and Driscolls Elizabeth, named for the Queen, which has outstanding flavour."

One of the largest independent berry growers in the UK, its supplies major supermarkets locally and nationally, and London markets as well as caterers, restaurants, farm shops and stalls.

And it has also supplied all the strawberries for the world famous Wimbledon tennis championships through Compass, the catering company, for over 25 years.

They annually send some 30 tonnes of Kent strawberries to the tennis tournament which means more than two million berries will find their way into the punnets for sale in the ground in under 24 hours.

They put their success, in part,

down to their south facing slopes.

Overall, they hope to pick around 3,000 tonnes from over 140 hectares. They set aside a five-hectare section for their Wimbledon strawberries, and also supply raspberries too which go in corporate box desserts.

Local food and drink champions Produced in Kent says it is justly proud of the county's harvest of the fruit.

A spokesman explains: "Nothing says summer like a ripe Kent strawberry."

"We are blessed in Kent that we produce some of the finest strawberries in the world. From small local farms and pick your own sites to large scale farms supplying supermarkets and of course Wimbledon."

"The strawberry season now runs from April to October, ensuring we can enjoy this oh-so-British of fruits all summer long. Farmers use different varieties and the best technology can offer to bring in a consistent harvest."

"They are divided into short-day types called Junebearers and day-neutral types which are Everbearers."

"Junebearers make their flower buds under short days in the autumn in Kent, and produce fruit from these flower buds when they grow the following summer. Everbearers form flower buds whatever the day length, so produce flowers and fruit all summer long as long as the plant is healthy and big enough."

Stanhill Farm, at Wilmington, near Dartford is also a family run farm with a shop, veg box delivery scheme and pick your own fields keeping them busy all year round.

Max Williams said: "The weather has affected the start of the season, we were a couple of weeks later than usual but we have loads of fruit now and its really good quality. The fields are looking good and the plants are healthy, which is great for the rest of the season."

They have seen great interest from the local community and further afield, having just played host to a coach-load of children on a visit from a London school to learn about food grown on the farm and have a go at picking their own.

Paul Kelsey is the fourth generation at Kelsey Farms in Wickmanbreau, near Canterbury, and he is also delighted with the way our haphazard weather is boosting the strawberries.



**TASTY:** Kent is famous for its strawberry crop, with thousands of tonnes produced - several of which will be sent to SW19 to be served up with cream in and around the famous grass courts of the All England Club.

He said: "Although it's been a strange growing season it seems to have suited the fruit. The Junebearers have fruited well and the Everbearers are looking fantastic, so we are looking forward to a good bumper season."

Produced in Kent added: "That has to be great news for strawberry lovers. Whether you eat them on their own, with cream or ice cream the choice is yours but wherever you buy Kent strawberries this year look at the label and support your local farmers."

Trade organisation British Summer Fruits speaks for the industry, and it said strawberry sales of £564m will account for over half of all berry sales of over £1 billion this year.

That adds up to a healthy profit for growers

while keeping prices stable in the supermarkets.

It is estimated some 74,000 tonnes will be harvested.

Laurence Olins is the chairman of British Summer Fruits. He said: "The sales boost has been helped by the idea that berries can be a healthy and cheap snack."

"Berries used to be a luxury item, but now

they are a delicious staple, consumed as part of a healthy diet for many people."

And he added: "The sales figures reveal a robust and expanding soft fruit category that is meeting growing consumer demand."

"The berry industry as a whole will continue to expand as, as the season begins, consumers can look forward to good quality British berries on supermarket shelves."

**RIPE:** A mild weather and a wet spring and summer has treated strawberries well this year







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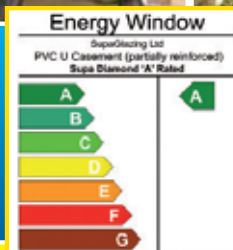
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# Are students being failed by cuts to sixth form funding?

Sittingbourne, in particular, is feeling the pinch but the impact is being felt across the county as significant reductions in government cash have seen a decline in the range of A levels offered and a dip in vocational courses now available...

**By Tom Pyman**

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

**P**OST-16 education in Kent has been branded "a disaster" by a local expert.

Schooling in the county had endured a torrid few months, with institutions having to take drastic decisions in the face of slashed government funding.

KoS reported earlier this month that Canterbury College is set to scrap teaching all A level courses and close its IT Academy as part of a radical shake-up following the merging of key leadership positions with East Kent College.

Canterbury has struggled financially and recently confirmed East Kent College's principal would also lead it going into the future. Its board of governors are consulting staff on the decision which could potentially cut nearly 28 jobs.

The proposal is to stop offering A level courses from September, 2016, and close the IT Academy at the end of next month.

But Canterbury is by no means bucking a trend – Mid Kent College and North Kent College both also announced recently that they have scrapped teaching A levels.

As sixth form teachers went on strike earlier this year over funding cuts, the importance of further education colleges finding revenue from elsewhere became more acute.

Those thriving in the sector currently are institutions, which made prudent decisions to enhance their offering to the wider community – in particular developing commercial additions, which allow them to activate revenue streams to bolster declining government funding and keep budgets topped up.

Hadlow College, near Tonbridge, boasts modern facilities and undertakes a range of commercial activities to help its revenue streams, and provide students with experiences to equip them for the varied world of work, running a tea room and florist.

Likewise, East Kent College in Thanet opens a new state-of-the-art hotel next Friday among a range of other activities, while North Kent College boasts nurseries, salons and a restaurant, although they are less for financial gain and more for enhancing the experience for its students.

But those areas at least have options for pupils.

In Swale, however, choices are limited. Sit-

tingbourne now lays claim to being the biggest town in Kent without a further education college of its own.

Instead, those wanting to pursue vocational education after the age of 16 face the prospect of lengthy commutes into Canterbury, Maidstone and Medway.

And that can deter many given the additional costs for travel involved, which is making many fear youngsters are not being given the opportunities they need at such a key stage in their learning.

Former Gravesend headteacher and education expert Peter Read, who runs the kentadvice.co.uk website, said it was indicative of a wider problem.

He told KoS: "What I am concerned about is the reduction in opportunities for post-16 students.

"There has been a serious reduction in sixth form funding for schools and the government is attempting to finance them on the same basis as colleges, but schools have a different programme and a different requirement to colleges because they are full time.

"Their courses are inevitably more expensive than college courses.

"Sixth form courses are less easy to fund and as we have noticed, Mid Kent College, North Kent College and now Canterbury College no longer offer A levels for those reasons.

"Up until a couple of years ago, Canterbury College had a thriving provision, but now it has combined with East Kent College because of financial woes.

"Grammar schools [traditionally running hugely popular and lucrative sixth forms] are finding A level funding more difficult, so they are having to reduce sixth form opportunities. The result is a reduction across the board."

Grammars have been forced to slash A level courses due to significant sixth form funding drops. The money per student used to help fund staff and courses across the school – now that has gone, forcing many into making redundancies and prompting unrest among remaining staff and unions.

Paul Carter, Conservative leader of Kent County Council, agreed it was a nationwide issue, rather than one exclusive to Kent.

"We need to have a big discussion about the choices and opportunities available to young people in this country," he told KoS.

"There are some significant funding problems, particularly for those that are struggling academically to access the right courses.





**CHANGES:** The likes of East Kent College, left, are introducing more revenue-generating bolt-ons to cover the cuts, but further education is suffering a 'disaster' according to Peter Read, above

"I think we need to lower the threshold of academic attainment so that there are more opportunities for apprenticeships.

"I'm a big champion of developing vocational skills because they're so important and more needs to be done to help young people get onto these courses. If you don't get five A\*-C grades you can't get on these A level courses – I think that's a real barrier and the level of focus purely on academic attainment in Key Stage Four [GCSE age] is a concern.

**Continued on page 16**

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Continued from page 15

"We are not doing enough for the 30 to 40 per cent of students who aren't getting those grades – the support isn't good enough and I don't think the choices are good enough."

"We work hard to try and raise the number of people entering apprenticeships but we need a debate on how we can improve access to these courses because it's very difficult for young people."

"But it's not exclusive to Kent, it's a problem up and down the country."

Students are now legally obliged to remain in education – or enter an apprenticeship – up to the age of 18.

Cat Taylor, of the Swale Academies Trust, which is one of the county's biggest trust and includes the likes of the Community College Whitstable, Westlands and the Sittingbourne Community College, also felt the issue was a widespread one. She explained: "There is a real lack of further education provision in Kent, particularly in terms of vocational courses."

It is in Swale, though, where the effects are perhaps felt the most.

Sittingbourne Community College shut down its popular further education unit, which developed a range of vocational skills, although the trust was quick to point out that further education provision is still in place, but it may be under a different guise.

Education providers have shifted the way it sells its services in recent years, the trust said, with many choosing to describe themselves as a sixth form to perhaps sound more appealing.

"In non-selectives they are reducing the vocational courses on offer," former Gravesend head teacher Peter Read added.

"Colleges continue to run them but Swale Academies Trust scrapping its further education unit is one more blow to opportunities for post-16 students."

"Further education colleges are running into serious financial difficulties, hence the problems elsewhere."

"There is a massive problem with funding



**CONCERNS:** Kent County Council leader Paul Carter, above, is anxious about the impact of funding cuts from Westminster

post-16 education which nobody seems interested in.

"There is a desperate need for government to look at funding arrangements for courses because it has made post-16 training compulsory."

"KCC has been given an obligation – responsibility without any power – to ensure these students are remaining in education, training or work with training."

"I think this is a disaster that is upon us, and I feel so sorry for young people in Kent who are being deprived of opportunities."

The Swale Sixth Form was set up last year, and merged 16-18 provision for Westlands School, Sittingbourne Community College and incorporated the Swale Skills Centre – located in the heart of the town.

In September, there was a grand opening for the centre – a vocational hub designed to deliver training in hair and beauty, catering, and engineering to students aged 14 years and above.

The trust says its facilities and courses have been designed to meet the requirements of local employers and students, with teaching staff all coming from an industry background.

Gordon Henderson, MP for Sittingbourne and Sheppey, was present at the opening last year and is a supporter of the work being done at the centre, however it can only provide a relatively limited range of subjects to its students.

At the turn of the year, he invited skills minister Nick Boles down to Swale to visit the centre and discuss a potential opportunity to expand and extend it into a further education college.

Mr Boles told the House of Commons: "I would be delighted to visit my honourable friend's constituency. We do not hear the opposition celebrating when new institutions open, including the Swale Skills Centre."

It is part of a nationwide review at local level of how college provision is suiting the training

needs of an area. It had been hoped Sittingbourne's limited provision could be resolved as a consequence.

The area review for Kent is scheduled for November.

In a week where the Ofsted chief, Sir Michael Wilshaw, warned that children from poor backgrounds were being let down by the education system, the atmosphere within the sector appears particularly grim.

Earlier this month, KoS discussed whether or not there really was what KCC describe as 'social mobility' in our selective system, but Mr Read insists one statistic is a shining beacon of hope against the dreary backdrop.

"In September 2015 there were 513 children at non-selectives that transferred to grammar," he said.

"I'm delighted about that because it shows they are playing their part in picking up late developers – it's an important figure."

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This new system encourages healing at an accelerated rate which means patients are able to go about their normal, everyday life without any or very little down-time.

Patients travel from all over, demanding this unique treatment which is also being used to help sportsmen and women speed up the healing process following injury. PRGF stands for Plasma Rich Growth Factors, - referred to as accelerated healing by the Hanover House dental implant team.

## The Problem

If you are one of the thousands of people suffering from missing or painful teeth you do not need to be reminded that it is very likely you will experience any or all of the following problems.

- Not being able to eat what you want
- Having to use fixative several times a day which is difficult to remove from your denture
- Your confidence has dropped
- You don't enjoy food anymore because of the denture covering the roof of your mouth
- You find yourself talking with your hand in front of your mouth to either stop a loose denture from moving or to hide an embarrassing gap



Pieter Claassen - Implant Dentist at Hanover House Dental in Tonbridge

- When did you last smile?
- You have bone loss where the denture is pressing on underlying bone
- You can often hear a 'funny sound' when the denture chews against another denture or teeth
- You have as constant fear you will lose or break your dentures
- Dogs love chewing dentures that lie unattended.

## The excitement

For most of us suffering from ill-fitting denture, painful or loose teeth, all of the problems can be eliminated through the use of dental implants.

Dr Claassen says, "Most patients normally have dental implants to stabilise loose and uncomfortable dentures or to replace embarrassing missing teeth. Having fixed teeth again means that they can eat and enjoy the food they want and have the confidence to smile in family photos again."

## PRGF is 100% Natural

The system is the magic solution that helps to speed up the healing process after the procedure, promoting our own unique healing factors to burst into action. Using the revolutionary PRGF system also increases the success rate.

For the first time ever Hanover House Dental Practice are offering the PRGF system completely free of charge when a dental implant is placed. Normally this amazing new treatment would cost £350.00 but for a limited period only Dr Claassen is offering it for FREE!

## Clinical Results

In a study of 1391 dental implant placements using PRGF, the success rate was 99.6%. This shows just how special PRGF is, and as our free introductory gift to you, Dr Claassen wants to provide it free of charge - but not for long. In fact, you only have until Thursday 30th June 2016 to take up this offer!

Patients who have osteoporosis often receive medication to strengthen their bones. Unfortunately, in some cases it can lead to the opposite - impaired healing of bone structure. PRGF is excellent for patients potentially at risk

of dental implant failure, shortening the time it takes for the body to accept your implants.

## The Benefits

There are many benefits when a patient chooses to have dental implants and using the PRGF system only increases those benefits...

Below are just a few;

1. Faster healing time; Less down time
2. Reduced pain and swelling
3. No one will know unless you want them too!
4. Natural healing from your healing factors
5. Get back your quality of life

## How it works

PRGF - Plasma Rich Growth Factor is a 100% natural product specific and unique to each patient. A small amount of blood is placed in a centrifuge and separated in different layers. Only the parts, rich in growth factors are then used and applied onto the implant and the surrounding areas in the mouth.

In the several years PRGF have been used in different medical fields there has never been a reported side effect.

## What people say

*"Pieter worked painstakingly to achieve the perfect finish. The dental implants have given me back my smile and confidence and I no longer have to worry about what I eat"*  
Mrs. P. Mahoney - Speldhurst

*"Having dental implants was well worth the effort and the difference was extraordinary, making it the best decision I ever made. I used to be self-conscious about my teeth. I wouldn't eat in public in case my dentures fell out and I hated how they felt in my mouth. Since having dental implants I am so much happier. I can eat what I want, when I want, including apples and I am much more confident. Even my friends have commented on how happy and relaxed I look."*  
Stephen Barnham - Tonbridge

Ken, a patients of Dr Claassen at Hanover House Dental Practice says...  
*"I wasn't certain about going down this route but now feel SMILES better!"* which is evident in his before and after treatment photos.



■ Mr Ken Winch BEFORE Treatment



■ Mr Ken Winch AFTER Treatment

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**VICTORY:** A year ago he lost his bid to be South Thanet MP. Today he stands as the key architect in the Brexit vote. But will his party now look to reunite with the Tories after achieving its goal?

## Mackinlay claims Ukip's days are numbered as Britain votes Leave

**Tom Pyman** speaks to founding member of Ukip turned Tory MP on what Brexit means for the party

**S**OUTH Thanet MP Craig Mackinlay has hinted there could be a movement of Ukip members back towards the Conservative Party after Britain voted to leave the European Union.

After months of relentless campaigning from both sides, nearly 60 per cent of the Kent electorate voiced their desire to leave, with 12 of our 13 districts backing Brexit.

The result prompted David Cameron to announce his intention to step down as prime minister in October – a decision that was perhaps inevitable but no less shocking.

Ukip has had a dramatic recent history with the country.

Last year Thanet became the first authority in the country to be governed by the purple party, while the year before they had established themselves as the main opposition on Kent County Council.

Mr Mackinlay, a founding father of Ukip, and long-time Eurosceptic who described this week's victory as the pinnacle of his career, says the political implications of Thursday's vote could be huge.

"Ukip is a bit of a mixed bag," he told KoS.

"It's got ex-Conservatives, some from the left and some general anarchists and maybe they will depart back to the parties from where they came because the reason for their existence has now gone.

"There are some very sensible members and some peculiar ones, but I think the door will be open for

some in the Conservatives. "Our party is going to go through a period of healing because there has been a family row and it went a bit too far and certainly could have been handled better."

Ukip leader Nigel Farage, who lives in Westerham and stood against Mr Mackinlay in last year's general election, has been widely hailed as the mastermind behind the Brexit win.

It represents a remarkable personal triumph for a man who almost single-handedly forced the prime minister to promise a referendum in the Tory manifesto ahead of the 2015 general election – a move widely seen as a sop towards Eurosceptics when a hung parliament seemed inevitable.

Mr Farage declared the victory the nation's "independence day".

Asked if he agreed with claims Mr Farage was the most influential person in British politics, Mr Mackinlay said: "Absolutely not.

"I've been fighting for this for 25 years, and I was pleased we had a referendum at all.

"To be part of the team that delivered it was vindication enough for me but to then go on and win is the pinnacle of what I wanted to achieve.

"Ukip has been a pressure throughout, certainly, but it is my belief that if Ukip had not been involved we would have won it by an even bigger margin.

"They were not playing the vote Leave game which was dangerous when as a party they only have a certain appeal."

The reaction to the vote was imme-

diated, with the value of the pound plummeting to its lowest level since 1985.

Britain is expected to now enter a period of financial instability, but Mr Mackinlay is confident any adverse effects will disappear soon enough.

"I'm absolutely sure the markets will be back to normal soon," he said.

"Everyone will see the world has not caved in on us and that the opportunities outside of a stifling EU are better for Britain.

"The impact on South Thanet is a positive one, particularly for fishermen who I have long been fighting for. Now they no longer have to suffer as part of a failed EU policy where the French get a quota twice as big.

"That's just a small part of what we're getting back and we'll start to see these benefits coming through to Thanet and Kent as a whole very quickly."

On the eve of the election, the bookmakers made Remain strong favourites to succeed and Green MEP for the south east, Keith Taylor, admitted his disappointment at the verdict.

He said: "British people are angry and disillusioned with politics as usual – they've expressed those sentiments by voting to leave the EU.

"After a bitter and unedifying campaign, the most important task now is unifying our divided communities.

"The old political party system is not representing people's views, that is the one message this referendum has sent loud and clear. Politics in the UK is no longer tenable.

"Britain's two-party state is clearly failing."



**DEFEAT:** PM is to step down

Mr Taylor said he feared for the fate of Europeans who have made Britain their home in recent years.

"Leave campaigners said they will be able to stay – and we expect them to honour that commitment," he added.

"But what about people who have made plans to come here to join their family, or the British people who have saved up for a lifetime to move to Spain?

"The prospect of shutting down the right to free movement is frightening, as are the long-term consequences of a campaign that has at times pitted neighbours against one another, whipped up fear, courted hatred, and allowed lies and myths to take the place of truth."

Tracey Crouch, sports minister and MP for Chatham and Aylesford an-

nounced earlier this week she was intending to vote, but would not declare for whom, after claiming she was appalled by both campaigns.

She said following the result: "Now it is time for us MPs to work through the next steps and deliver what is in the best interests of our communities and country".

Canterbury Tory MP Julian Brazier added: "This is not a withdrawal from Europe – we will remain a leading European nation. It is a rejection of the bureaucratic apparatus which is doing so much damage over so much of Europe.

"Once the immediate shock of the result has sunk in, we will be able to get onto a gentle glide path leading to an exit over the next two or three years, on sensible terms, for ourselves and our neighbours."

Meanwhile, the Bishop of Dover Trevor Willmott issued a statement urging us to pray following the decision.

He said: "Whatever our views on Europe, we have a duty to continue to bear with one another in love, to seek to welcome the stranger and care for the refugee whatever our future immigration policies.

"Let us pray for grace and wisdom for the tasks that lie ahead."

A sentiment no doubt shared by the Tories after David Cameron confirmed he would step down, paving the way for Michael Gove and Boris Johnson to launch expected campaigns to become the next leader of a party fractured by differing views on the merits of the European Union.



## EU REFERENDUM: THE RESULTS

# Big turnout as county votes Brexit

With the exception of Tunbridge Wells all areas supported an exit from the EU

**T**HE rise of Ukip over recent years in Kent should have been enough to send out the message that Kent is more than a little responsive to a call to exit the European Union.

In recent years, the county has not only seen the main opposition in County Hall turned purple, but, albeit briefly, we even returned a Ukip MP as Mark Reckless enjoyed his six months in the sun before the Tories sent him packing again.

But the scale of the victory, which will have seen voters from across the traditional political divide unite against the EU will have surprised many.

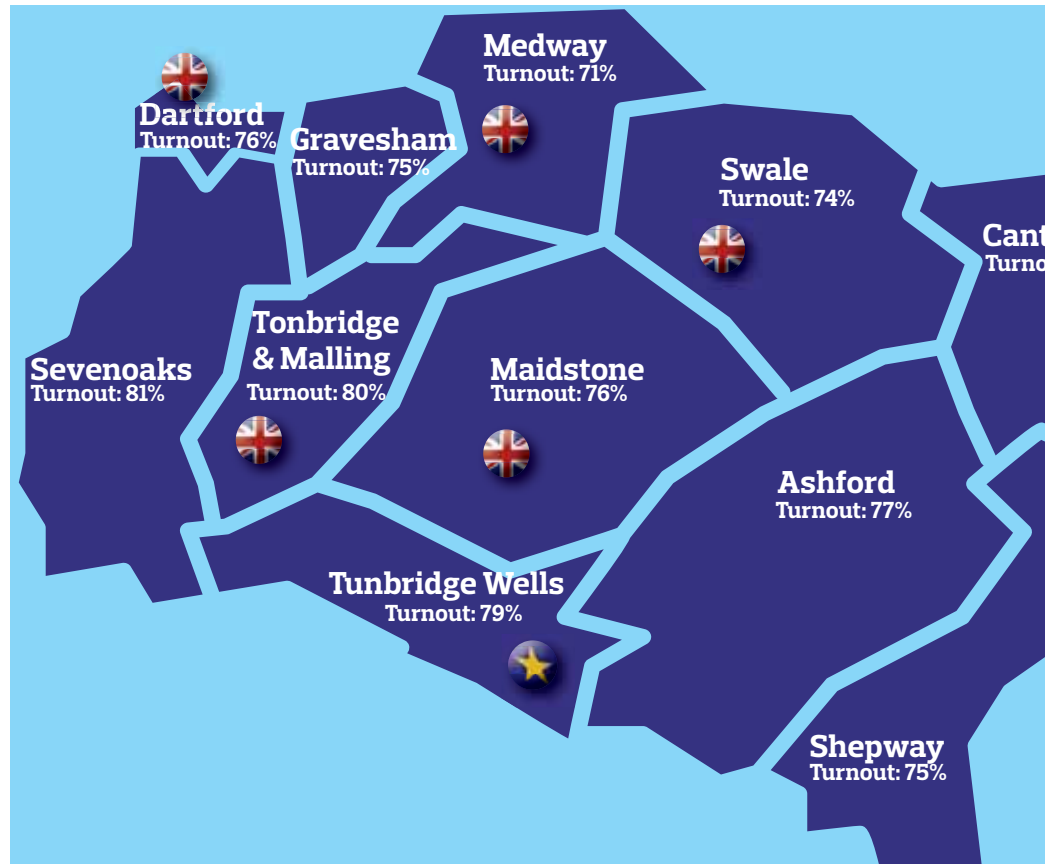
In total, nearly 60 per cent (59.25

per cent) of those who voted in the county backed a Brexit, with 40.74 per cent opting to stay.

Only Tunbridge Wells, that most traditionally true blue of constituencies voted to remain in the county.

Nor can it be claimed the referendum failed to get voters into the polling stations with a turnout which comfortably eclipsed last year's general election and swamped the police and crime commissioner elections earlier this year, which saw a miserly 21 per cent of eligible voters submit their ballot paper.

For now, though, the county will spend the weekend coming to terms with the seismic shock of the out vote and ponder the very real impact that it will have on our lives.



**OUT:** Only Tunbridge Wells voted in support of remaining in the UK

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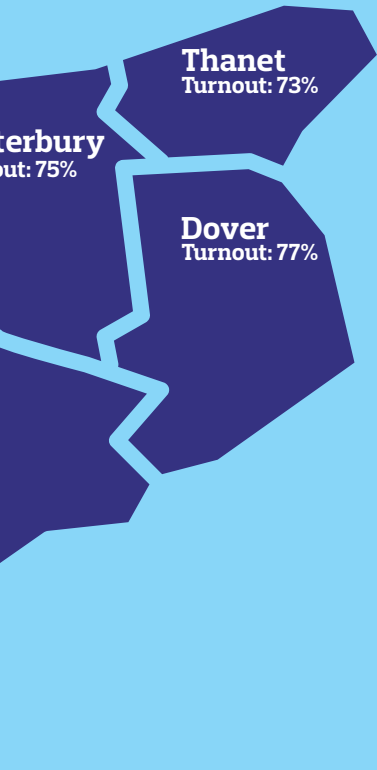
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# EU REFERENDUM: THE RESULTS

## IN-DEPTH RESULTS



**Ashford**   
Remain - 28,314  
Leave - 41,472  
Turnout - 77%

**Canterbury**   
Remain - 40,169  
Leave - 41,879  
Turnout - 75%

**Dartford**   
Remain - 19,835  
Leave - 35,870  
Turnout - 76%

**Dover**   
Remain - 24,606  
Leave - 40,410  
Turnout - 77%

**Gravesham**   
Remain - 18,876

Leave - 35,643  
Turnout - 75%

**Maidstone**   
Remain - 36,762  
Leave - 52,365  
Turnout - 76%

**Medway**   
Remain - 49,889  
Leave - 88,997  
Turnout - 71%

**Sevenoaks**   
Remain - 32,091  
Leave - 38,258  
Turnout - 81%

**Shepway**   
Remain - 22,884  
Leave - 37,729  
Turnout - 75%

**Swale**   
Remain - 28,481  
Leave - 47,388  
Turnout - 74%

**Thanet**   
Remain - 26,065  
Leave - 46,047  
Turnout - 73%

**Tonbridge & Malling**   
Remain - 32,792  
Leave - 41,229  
Turnout - 80%

**Tunbridge Wells**   
Remain - 35,676  
Leave - 29,320  
Turnout - 79%

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**DAY 3:** Day out - across Exmoor National Park stopping at the twin villages of **Lynton** and **Lynmouth**. A unique water operated cliff railway dating back to 1890 joins the village of Lynton to its sister village of Lynmouth, 500ft below. The railway is a listed monument and is one of the area's most popular tourist attractions. A return ticket is included so you can visit both pretty places and enjoy a fabulous view in-between.

**DAY 4:** We leave for home after a last, hearty breakfast to see us on our way

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# Dreamland's £600k Caymans injection

**Chris Murphy** reports on the latest chapter in the modern history of Margate's revived, but struggling, theme park...

**T**HE saga of Margate's revived theme park Dreamland has taken another twist after it emerged the company which operates it has been handed a £600,000 loan from a hedge fund based in the Cayman Islands.

The cash is being used to satisfy debts run up by the park since it opened a year ago this month.

But as part of the agreement, the leasehold on the Dreamland park has appeared to be used as security, according to documents filed at Companies House which keeps track of all company records.

And that has prompted concerns that should Sands Heritage Ltd – the operator now being run by administrators after sinking under the weight of its financial problems – default on future payments, the lease awarded by the local council could be handed over and the park face an uncertain future.

However, the administrator, London firm Duff & Phelps, has played down those fears, saying the park is continuing as normal and claims the

lease has been sold or reassigned is "incorrect".

The lease itself, however, does not mean there is any threat to the actual land Dreamland sits on. That remains with the council. And the lease still dictates a theme park be operated on the site.

However, some are concerned should the lease eventually change hands, the park may take a very different approach to that which the public has backed in recent years.

Dreamland has struggled since re-opening last June.

While it has certainly captured the imagination, it has failed to get sufficient numbers through the gates and activate the revenue streams necessary to make it viable.

Despite lots of positive stories issued about its success, after just six months it became apparent the park was staring down the barrel of a financial collapse, when Sands Heritage Ltd revealed it had debts of £2.9m. It prompted it to enter what is known as a company voluntary arrangement (CVA) which restructures debts – normally extending the payment terms.

Sands Heritage was appointed to run the site at the end of 2014. It is spearheaded by Nick Connington, a former financier turned property developer, who is best known in Margate for the Sands Hotel in the town. The boutique hotel reached a wide audience after being featured on BBC daytime show *Homes Under the Hammer*.

To further muddy the waters, he was formerly portfolio manager at Arrowgrass Capital Partners – the investment firm which runs the Arrowgrass Master Fund in the Caymans which is now investing.

While there is no suggestion of any impropriety, the link has raised some eyebrows.

Arrowgrass is a respected investment firm, headquartered in London, which has its 'Master Fund' division based in the Caymans.

Former Thanet councillor Ian Driver has monitored the financial issues behind Dreamland carefully over the years, and says he has concerns over the latest developments and the park's failure to get a grip, so far, on its financial situation.



Mr Driver, a member of the local Green Party, told us: "At least £18m of public money has been spent on opening Dreamland including £8m from local tax payers, grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund and from the government's Coastal Communities and Sea Change funds.

"The public therefore have a right to know if their money has been spent wisely and for the purposes it was intended. I also believe there should be an independent public enquiry into Thanet council's management of the Dreamland project.

"The project has been beset with problems from the start which suggests to me deep-seated mismanagement at

a political and senior officer level."

Mr Driver is certainly no stranger to making accusations at the council, which is still struggling through the storm of protest about the future of the Manston Airport site.

A council spokesman did say: "We are aware of this issue and are engaged with the administrator.

"There has been no change in the operator of the site, but should that change as part of the administration process, our expectation is that any new operator would have to comply with the terms of the lease. And that would mean a theme park on the site."

The council had to serve a compulsory purchase order to acquire the

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Dreamland site to enable it to move in and return it to something approaching its former glory. It then awarded a long-term leasehold deal to Sands Heritage to actually operate the park on the site.

After struggling with its debts, the administrators were called in. It means the accountants and business experts from the administrators will call the shots in a bid to try and halt the haemorrhage of cash and turn it back into a viable business.

One immediate sign was to drop the entry fee and make the park a pay-to-ride destination. This saw double the expected numbers last weekend, as 14,000 flocked to visit

the park. It may yet prove to be the key to unlocking the potential and getting it back on financial track.

A spokesman for the administrators said: "News the lease of Dreamland has been assigned or sold is incorrect. The business continues to trade as normal under administration and the team at Dreamland are looking forward to an exciting summer ahead."

A source close to the negotiations added: "Arrowgrass is a secured creditor of the company in administration but their relationship to Dreamland is no different to any other secured creditor under any sort of administration situation."



**POPULAR:** Last weekend's decision to drop the entry fee to the park for the summer season saw crowds more than double on those expected, and for the gates to be kept open longer on Sunday to meet demand

## TRADING ON PAST GLORIES

DREAMLAND's marketing strategy from the off has been to trade on its place in the hearts and minds of those who remember it from its hey-day.

Without the sort of budget or size of plot of today's modern theme parks Dreamland needed to find a niche; so it looked back in time.

For anyone who grew up in the 1950s through to 1980s, Dreamland - or Bambom Brothers as it was also known - was a pleasure palace filled with daring, dramatic rides and a constant ripple of excitement. And Margate thrived as a result.

Thus Dreamland opted to go retro - installing rides its audience would remember from its youth, and hopefully bring along the younger generation to discover them too.

The only problem, of course, is that for £15 a person, the cost of entry added up for a family. And in those first six months there were not enough rides or attractions to satisfy today's demanding park goer... and, perhaps most importantly, certainly not

the demanding teenager. They may not have been the target audience, but right now Dreamland can ill afford to be too picky.

Things have improved ahead of this summer season, more rides are now in place and the Scenic Railway is now fully up and running (unlike when it first opened last June). And dropping the entry price may just prove a masterstroke in getting people through the gates and spending the money it needs to justify the expenditure.

But remember, Dreamland has been recreated as much as a labour of love as it has by serious investment. Its budgets are tiny compared to the big parks and its repurposing of older rides underlines that.

Yet Dreamland's selling point remains that it pulls people into Margate - to its fabulous beach, its rejuvenated Old Town and, of course, the Turner Contemporary. For that alone, the county needs to get behind it, support it, and hope it survives.

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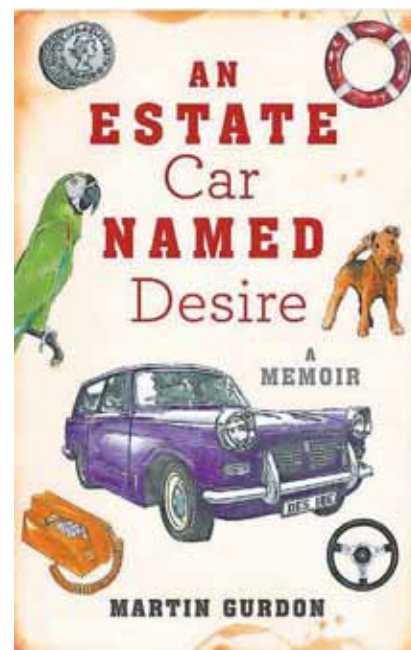
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**DRIVEN:** Author Martin Gurdon, above, his new book, right, and a classic Bristol 401, below

# Ode to the highs and lows of life spent under the bonnet of a car

**Steve Loader** meets writer Martin Gurdon to discuss his entertaining book on a life-long obsession...

**M**ARTIN Gurdon's earliest experiences with cars could have been enough put some other people off learning to drive.

Instead, he was driven to become a motoring journalist.

"I grew up in the 1960s and 70s, when people mostly drove around in ratty old bangers," the 52-year-old explained.

"My dad owned a pair of Jowett Javelins – clever cars made by a little company in Yorkshire. Unfortunately, they weren't very reliable, and he was forever fixing them. Gearboxes tended to go wrong, and on one family holiday my dad packed a spare 'box and fitted it before we came home. I think this sort of thing was a hangover from the Second World War's drive to make do and mend."

Now Mr Gurdon, a contributor to magazines like *Octane* and to the *London Evening Standard*, has written *An Estate Car Named Desire*, a book about growing up in an era of eccentric people and eccentric cars.

"The streets were filled with Ford Cortinas and Anglias, 'bubble cars' with one wheel at the back and a door at the front, where dads fixed cars at the weekend, seat belts were rarely used and parents smoked in cars with their kids.

"It doesn't seem that long ago to me, but it's ancient history to many people, so I thought it would be fun to bring that world to life for them. It was also a wallow in nostalgia, but I enjoyed that too.

"I wanted to entertain people who couldn't care less about cars, as much

as I hope I've pleased those who're passionate about them."

He said the book aims to portray the cars as characters; those that were common in his childhood often had big personalities, although many seemed prone to breakdowns.

His book is packed with anecdotes, including how one of his dad's Jowetts may have inspired Monty Python's *Dead Parrot* sketch.

Gurdon senior worked in television props and special effects on programmes like *Upstairs Downstairs* and *On the Buses*, and became involved in a sketch show starring John Cleese. "One sketch was about a dodgy car salesman, played by Michael Palin, who'd sold a dud car to Graham Chapman," said Mr Gurdon.

"My dad used his Jowett for it. He rigged the car so that he could hide in the back, pulling lengths of fishing line so that things like the bumpers and doors fell off at crucial moments. It sounded like a *Dead Parrot* sketch prototype and has been viewed on YouTube about 900,000 times."

When it comes to his own cars, Mr Gurdon said he's a little embarrassed to find that he's owned about 80, the first being a tiny, egg-shaped Honda Z600 coupe. Smaller than an original Mini it had a 600cc, air cooled twin-cylinder engine like a motorcycle, and a gearbox without synchronesh; changing gear without crunching noises took plenty of practice.

"Fourteen days after I started driving it I 'collected' a Ford Transit as a bonnet ornament, but found a wrecked Z600 in a farmer's field and salvaged the bonnet and wings from that, except they were orange and the



rest of the car was yellow, so it then looked like a jaundiced dwarf with an orange party nose – I was forever being stopped by the police."

Until last year he owned an elegant 1951 Bristol 401, with a handmade aluminium body and 1930s BMW-designed engine: "My dad ran one in the early 1970s, and it was the most charismatic mechanical thing I've ever known.

"I acquired my own as soon as I could, only to find that it needed a wealthy owner to look after it properly, so now it's gone to a good home."

When Mr Gurdon isn't driving new press cars, including exotic supercars like the Audi R8 – "I have fun and give them back afterwards" – his own set of wheels is a humble 1999 Toyota Avensis automatic.

Why would a motoring journalist

drive something like that?

"It was free," he said. "And the previous owner was going to scrap it if I didn't take it away. Since then I've done 27,000 miles in it. It's very boring but very reliable.

"People get very nostalgic about cars, and I'm still asked 'why don't they make them like that anymore?' but the truth is 'they' don't make them like that anymore because modern cars are made a whole lot better. Models we now call classics were less safe, slower, dirtier and less efficient than those made now," said Mr Gurdon.

"Yes, they were easier to fix because they needed more maintenance to start with and needed it more often. When a modern car goes wrong it can be fiendishly difficult and expensive to repair, but they don't go wrong very often, last longer and don't drop to bits. When I was a kid, cars were eaten alive by rust and mechanically worn out in five or six years."

## TOP GEAR WILL HIT TOP SPEED IN NEXT SERIES

WHEN people hear what Martin Gurdon does for a living he is frequently asked what he thinks of TV's *Top Gear* and particularly the newly re-launched Chris Evans version.

The show has fared poorly in the ratings since the trio of Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May left last year.

Mr Gurdon said: "There's

a lot of fun stuff in the show yet it's still a work in progress, which is only to be expected. I suspect things will get really interesting in the second series, when they've got into the groove of making it, and perhaps not under quite such intense media interest."

■ *An Estate Car Named Desire* (£12.99) is published by Duckworth Overlook.





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**ATTACK:** The moths could threaten some of the county's crops if fears over their numbers see them swarm across our fields

# Farmers on red alert as swarms of moths head in our direction

The diamondback moth may only be tiny, but its impact can be enormous. **Simon Allin** takes a look at the latest threat on the horizon and attempts to find an insecticide powerful enough to tame it...

**V**EGETABLE growers in Kent face having to deal with an influx of 'super-pests' that could wreak havoc with their crops.

The diamondback moth, which has been arriving in the UK in large numbers this year, can devastate certain types of crop and is resistant to most insecticides, including pyrethroids and diamide – two of the most powerful and effective pest-killers.

According to annual records from the Rothamsted Insect Survey, which monitors insect numbers, diamondbacks reported so far are exceptionally high, reaching levels last seen in 1996.

The moths – no bigger than a finger nail – arrive in such numbers they can decimate crops – eating them or severely damaging them.

One swarm spotted in Herefordshire extended for two miles and was described as like "driving through rain."

Sites in eastern England and the Channel Islands have reported around ten times the normal yearly total over a period of a few nights, with more than 1,000 reported over three nights from a trap in Berkshire, and 310 in one night in Guernsey.

The moths affect the brassica family of vegetable, which includes common types of crop such as broccoli, cauliflower and oilseed rape – the vibrant yellow colour of which has be-

come a major crop across Kent

Kevin Attwood, Kent county delegate for the National Farmers' Union (NFU), said: "It is not a major problem at the moment, but it is something that certainly needs monitoring."

"For vegetable and salad growers – foods which go straight into the food chain – it could be very significant."

"It is a case of waiting, possibly, to see what happens."

Trevor Bradley, of Boundary Farm in Wingham, near Canterbury, grows around 390 acres of vegetables, including brassicas.

He told KoS he is not worried about the moths at the moment, although they could pose a big problem if they get out of control.

"I got out and sprayed the crops a couple of weeks ago and that kept the moths at bay and I will give them another spraying."

"They came in all of a sudden but we can control them and it is not a life-threatening situation."

"If they do get out of control, the crops would be devastated – we would have crops full of holes."

The county's oilseed rape crop could also be at risk. According to the NFU, 24,510 hectares of oilseed rape is grown in Kent, making it the second most commonly grown arable crop.

Chris Shortall, a research scientist and co-ordinator of the Rothamsted light-trap network, said: "In our



light-traps here at Rothamsted we have seen in two nights the number of diamondback moths that we usually record in a year, and this is reflected elsewhere in the network.

"If the summer weather is warm and favourable for the reproduction of the moths we could see an explosion in the number of them by the end of the season."

The moths are believed to originate in the Mediterranean, where growing methods mean they pose less of a problem than they would in the UK.

"In warmer countries, a lot of them will grow under cover – in the Mediterranean, there is not much planting out," Mr Shortall explained.

"Climate change could be a factor in this. It is likely to have been a mild winter in their breeding grounds, which has allowed them to survive."

"Warmer winters are likely to happen more and there will be more east-erlies with climate change. It is not clear, but I would not rule it out."

"When the last invasion happened, in 1996, there was not as much

oilseed rape being grown as there is now.

"It is still early days, but reports we have been getting say that these numbers might well be an increase on the 1996 numbers."

Research will now take place to determine which, if any, insecticides can be used against the pests, and to explore potential management methods.

Mr Shortall added that farmers should be on the lookout for the moth's larvae on their spring crops and take advice from their agronomists, who will be informed when it is known what chemicals are effective.

John Harris, who owns Broadditch Farm in Southfleet, said he would have to monitor the situation – but the uncertainty about the moth's insecticide resistance meant he would have to be reactive rather than proactive.

"We have got brassica that would be affected – sprouts, cauliflower and kale," he explained.

"In the next month or so, we will have curly kale and cabbage, so we

will have to monitor the crops strictly.

"We have some fleece to cover them, which we are hoping will suffice. With small crops, you can cover them, but not for acres and acres of crops."

Mr Harris pointed out that oilseed rape covers thousands of acres up and down the country.

He had been planning to plant a new crop in the autumn, but the arrival of the moth means he may need to reconsider.

"Oilseed is a good break crop for giving the ground a rest, and it is the main crop from that point of view," he said.

"There is normally some sort of armament available to tackle pests. The problem is that they are saying there is nothing that is suitable to kill them."

A spokeswoman for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs said: "Diamondback moths migrate to the UK every year."

"While the number observed this year is particularly high, there has been no significant damage reported in crops and a number of control methods are available for farmers."

"Protecting our country from pests and diseases is important for our economy, the environment and our health and we will continue to monitor the situation and work with farmers to limit the damage to our valuable crops sector."



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# Simply Red bowl up a hits heavy set at Spitfire Ground

Thousands flocked to Canterbury last weekend to watch the big-selling band

**All pictures: Andy Archer**

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

**S**IMPLY Red saw off the wet weather last weekend to bask in the glow of adoration as the chart-topping band romped through their greatest hits catalogue in front of thousands of fans in Canterbury.

The group, fronted by Mick Hucknall, performed at the Spitfire Ground St Lawrence – home of Kent County Cricket Club – last Saturday as part of their UK tour.

Among the hits performed were the likes of Money's Too Tight (To Mention), Fairground, For Your Babies, Stars, If You Don't Know Me By Now, A New Flame and Your Mirror.

The stage was set up on one side of the pitch, with the crowd on the protected hallow turf to enjoy the show.

A crowd of some 8,000 fans filled the ground for the show.

Jamie Clifford, Kent Cricket's chief executive said the performance went by without a hitch and that the club was delighted by the turn-out for the show.

He told KoS: "We were fortunate that the weather cleared up and by Saturday evening it was dry and mild.

"The show was a great success. The band played all their biggest hits and the feedback from the audience has been positive.

"We were delighted with its success and the number of tickets sold."

The show followed performances by the likes of Elton John and Madness in recent years, who have rocked the venue in Old Dover Road.

Next up will be a performance by Canadian singer-songwriter Bryan Adams – best known for huge hits such as Run To You and the long running number one (Everything I Do) I Do It For You.

Mr Clifford added: "We are looking forward to Bryan Adams on Saturday, August 13.

"We are delighted to be welcoming him to the ground and early bird tickets are already selling well.

"We are building up a reputation for attracting best-selling artists like Elton John and Madness so Bryan Adams continues that tradition."



**STARS:** Mick Hucknall belted through his back catalogue



**CROWD:** Fans were delighted to watch the group perform in Kent



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**ICONIC:** The White Cliffs took on a hugely symbolic status during the war. The book, inset left, and a visit by the wartime prime minister, Winston Churchill, inset top right.

# How town survived might of the relentless shelling by Germany

**Chris Murphy** speaks to the writer of a new book looking at the bombardment of Dover during the war

**D**OVER's history as a town on the frontline of Britain's defences has stretched back centuries. But for many, it is its symbolic status during the Second

World War – representing freedom and home for the troops being shipped around the world to fight – that is the most compelling.

Yet during the Second World War, Dover was subject to some intensive

damage by German forces.

It has been calculated the port town had to withstand some 2,226 German shells fired from the occupied French coast, more than 460 high explosive bombs, around 1,500 fire bombs, three parachute mines and three V1s (the flying bomb) that all fell inside its boundaries.

Now a local journalist has put together a book chronicling some of the appalling nightmares locals had to endure.

Terry Sutton, a former chairman of the Dover Society, which assists the preservation of the town, said: "My father, who was a newspaper editor, kept an illegal diary and some of that is contained in the book."

Published in paperback, the 150-page tome tells in detail what it was like to live in wartime Dover constantly under siege from German guns fired from the French coast.

He put the illustrated book together with former customs officer Derek Leach, the Dover Society's current chairman.

Inside are accounts from locals who lived through the horror of the wartime shelling.

One gem revealed for the first time is that military authorities planned to demolish many of Dover's sea front homes to provide clear lines of fire to cut down any invaders coming ashore at the port.

Mr Sutton said: "We have illustrated it with over 100 pictures that show the true horror of that four-year siege of Dover. The worst fear was not knowing where and when another shell was to crash down."

"There are those who believe Dover deserves the George Cross for what it endured during those terrible years. Derek and I do not support that campaign but we embarked on writing this book as our tribute to the bravery of those who remained in the town throughout the war."

He said Dover's population, 40,000 before the war, dwindled to an estimated 16,500 by the time shelling began and it never fully recovered. Many of those who remained in the town during the war spent their days in deep shelters carved out of the cliffs and quarries, he said.

Mr Sutton went on: "We were fortunate to be able read the wartime diaries of my father Norman Sutton,

the only journalist to remain in Dover throughout the conflict. While working on the local newspaper, the Dover Express, he also served as an officer in the town's Home Guard spending nights patrolling the sea front."

"In September 1944, as the Canadians fought their way towards the German cross-Channel guns, the enemy gunners bombarded Dover with hundreds of shells just to use up their ammunition before their guns were finally silenced."

One eye witness, Barry Fincham, told the authors: "One frightful aspect of shelling was that a shell had to fall before the sirens were sounded and people could take shelter."

Mr Sutton's father, Norman, wrote: "In September 1944... Dover people realised the German gunners were determined to spite their frustration and cause as much damage as they could before they fell before the inexorable advance of the Allied armies. That being so the Dover people did the sensible thing and remained under cover when possible."

■ Dover in the Second World War is published by The History Press (Phillimore) and costs £15.99.



**DAMAGE:** The town was bombarded by German artillery



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# Track chiefs brand Stack proposal as 'unviable'

Calls by a shipping firm to turn the famous Brands Hatch race circuit into a massive lorry park are dismissed...

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

**B**RANDS Hatch has shot down the suggestion it could be used as an alternative solution to Operation Stack as "completely unviable".

It comes after a shipping firm operating in Dover floated the idea of using the track as one of a number of possible solutions to the issues created by Stack in a new report.

Motis, which has more than 8,000 customers across Europe, is the latest organisation to slam the government's plan to build a £250m lorry park 'the size of Disneyland' capable of holding 3,600 trucks to ease the pressure on Kent's roads when Stack comes into effect.

However, chancellor George Osborne warned last week that a vote for Brexit would mean some £30billion of tax rises and spending cuts, with planned large infrastructure projects such as the lorry park earmarked for Stanford, off junction 11 of the M20, being the first to take the hit.

Motis believes parking the freight transport only exacerbates the problem, and that it would be more sensible to queue lorries away from the M20 rather than have them parked.

Robert Hardy, who wrote the report, said: "A truck park is not the solution for Operation Stack.

"Trucks do not need to park they need to form an orderly queue.

"Think theme park, would you

leave the queue to have lunch and expect to return to the point you left while all others have patiently stood there?"

"What is required is a holding area – a long strip of tarmac that allows a queue, an example, although not practical, would be Brands Hatch or Lydden race track – a continuous strip of road rather than a square of concrete."

However, bosses at the popular circuit have laughed off such suggestions.

An official spokesman for Brands Hatch told KoS: "Brands Hatch is an active, busy motor racing circuit so the suggestion it could ever be used as a lorry park is rather strange.

"It goes without saying that the concept is completely unviable."

One perhaps more viable suggestion made in Motis' report was the use of the M26 motorway to queue lorries.

The M26 connects junction five of the M25 and junction three of the M20, but the shipping firm does not believe it is an essential artery for Kent, and would be ideal for taking pressure off the vital stretch of M20 between London and Dover.

The report continued: "Nine miles of motorway could accommodate 5,000 trucks in an orderly queue.

"Motorway could be closed but routes to and from M20 and M25 would still be accessible via junction three.

"M26 is a short-cut motorway and not an essential route and could be temporarily closed with minimal impact.



**PROBLEM:** Operation Stack causes no end of problems on the M20... but it's not coming to Kent's top race track

"Configuration suits holding lorries in a stack formation, initially southbound but could be adapted to northbound also.

"At least one junction would need to be altered but this would appear significantly cheaper than building a £250m truck park folly."

The suggestion of using the M26 was backed by a freight firm, which became the latest association to voice concerns about the lorry park plans.

The British International Freight Association (BIFA) has claimed the government's decision to proceed with the project had ignored some of the usual best practice when planning the expenditure of such large sums of money.

BIFA director general, Robert Keen, said: "Our members' cross-channel trailer services are seriously impacted when there is disruption in the channel ports and Operation Stack comes into action.

"They are keen for the government to seek a solution to the disruption caused by Operation Stack, but query whether a lorry park is the best approach, given the cost and scale involved.

"It seems a little odd that such a significant amount of money might be spent on a lorry park that might never get used and might not even solve the wider problems.

"BIFA has always said there is not one single fix.

"A range of options should be considered, including consideration of the use of the M26 to queue rather than park traffic, upgrading of the A2 so that we've got two major routes to the port, as well as using smart technology.

"With an announcement expected on the way forward in summer 2016,

BIFA members still feel that the government has more work to do to persuade us of the business case for this investment."

Debbie Burton of the Kent SOS (Smarter Options than Stanford) campaign group also said she welcomed the suggestion.

"Spending all that money on a lorry park that might never get used cannot be sensible," she told KoS.

"There's no one single fix, we need to look at a range of options including using smart technology.

"I think the M26 is a solution because it's not an essential route and it's far less expensive than building a lorry park we might not even need.

"It makes more sense to have them queuing rather than parked.

"I'd also rather see upgrading of the A2 so that we've got two major routes to the port – that's an idea that hasn't been covered much.

"However I don't think using Brands Hatch or Lydden would work because it would need to be available to be called on at any time, so it wouldn't be a permanent solution."

It comes after a government transport committee published a damning report claiming the decision to proceed with the lorry park plans was rushed in reaction to the events of the summer of 2015 when Stack was used longer than ever before.

The committee called on transport ministers to demonstrate the necessity of building the lorry park, including the cost-benefit ratios of alternative solutions and whether the park is proportionate and appropriate to the scale and frequency of disruption.

It also stressed the need to factor in environmental and social costs on the locality, economic benefits and the long-term costs of operating,

maintaining, renewing and, eventually, decommissioning the lorry park.

"What happens next is a waiting game," Ms Burton added.

"But we were very pleased with the transport committee's findings because it's not just a campaign group, it's now a government committee relaying these fears.

"It remains to be seen whether it will be listened to, because if it isn't, what's the point of having the committee in the first place?"

However, it was announced last month that a £130m contract for the construction of the park was awarded to international infrastructure group, Balfour Beatty, despite a final decision not yet being made.

The secretary of state will make an announcement on the way forward this summer, with Highways England holding a further six week consultation on a preferred site before construction starts.

Roads minister Andrew Jones confirmed in a letter to Faversham and Mid Kent MP Helen Whately that Manston Airport would be used as a temporary solution should Stack come into force.

He said that would be the case until the end of 2017, by which time he anticipates part of the lorry park would be available for use.

Highways England revealed the routes lorries would take should such a situation arise last year.

Dover-bound freight coming from the West will use the M20 to junction 7, Maidstone, where it will be diverted via the A249, M2, and A299 to Manston.

Dover-bound freight coming from the North (Dartford Crossing) will use the A2, M2 and A299 to Manston.



**SPEED:** West Kingsdown's Brands Hatch circuit



# Start queuing for tickets to Operation Stack the musical

Inspired by the traffic chaos on the M20, a special production is set to be staged

By Chris Murphy  
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

**T**HINK Operation Stack, and the chances are you imagine gridlocked roads, frustrated motorists, and large stretches of the M20 motorway resembling a huge dormant snake made up of lorries.

But while trouble at the ports can make businesses see profits frazzled and tempers fray, Operation Stack has proved an unlikely creative spark to one theatre company.

Because it has used the impact on our county as the inspiration for a new play called simply Stacked.

Staged at the Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury on July 13 and 14, the community production is a very modern twist of Geoffrey Chaucer's classic Canterbury Tales.

Performed by a 200-strong group of local actors and musicians, it sees the county gridlocked after Stack once again swings into force, forcing people to take refuge in the Canterbury Tales pub

— right opposite the theatre.

The pub has been recreated on the stage with even its landlord, Chris Smith, playing himself as a member of the theatre's adult acting class.

Each of the six main characters tell a tale involving everything from aliens to nuns and even a camel.

It is the third annual community production, with those taking part formed from the theatre's various participation groups and appearing, for the first time, on the main stage.

Andy Dawson, the Marlowe Theatre's head of creative projects, directs the performance. He told KoS: "Everyone ends up in the pub because Operation Stack has got out of control and the entire county has ground to a halt."

"People have abandoned their cars and ended up in the pub. From there it is all about humankind and how we can all get together to battle adversity."

"I think this is a really Kent-specific story because we all know Stack and the effect it can have on our lives. It is a mix of all sorts of genres including musical, drama and comedy."



**CAST:** Rehearsals for the production of Stacked

Greek-born musician Yiannis Zaronis, now living in Canterbury, often helps those who need it most, including offenders, detainees, and young people at risk.

He said: "They are generally in environments where music is not accessible."

As a music teacher, he worked at Canterbury College for two years and regularly performs live in the city.

The 35-year-old father-of-two is now the director and co-writer of Stacked. Having learned the guitar at nine, he has been studying the subject all his life and got his BA in music at Canterbury Christ Church

University, followed by a masters degree in ethnomusicology at the University of London.

He said: "For my masters, I studied the anthropology of music, which means I know a little bit about world music, and this is important for Stacked."

The teacher said Stacked is a modern-day Canterbury Tales, interweaving different stories with a common theme — a gridlocked city, where everyone is stuck in a pub.

He said: "I know of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales and my first thought was to make medieval English folk music for Stacked. But Andy didn't

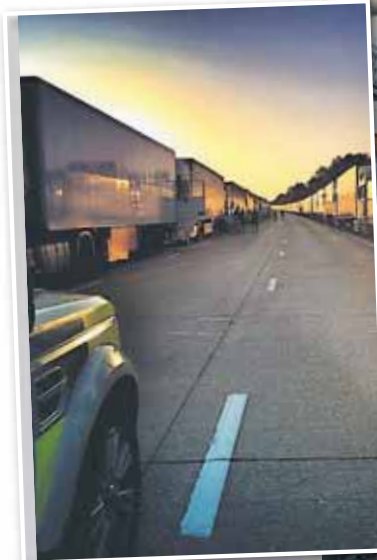
**CHAOS:** Stack last summer on the M20 motorway which caused such problems across the county

want it to be so predictable, so I had to think again. It was challenging, but not so difficult."

Stacked features music from different eras and of different styles — jazz swing from the 1940s, European waltzes, Middle Eastern drumming — and will be played live on stage.

Mr Zaronis added: "Its topics are so very relevant to now and the large, passionate cast are all giving 100 per cent. It's going to be very entertaining."

Operation Stack has almost be-



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come part of Kent life.

It has been put in place so often, the government finally stepped in and promised cash for a giant lorry park – but now the rows have started over where to put the huge slab of concrete.

Last year, there was a 40-day period when the coast bound M20 was closed for 24 days.

Thousands of lorries just sat and waited for days on end for the chance to continue their journeys.

It was caused by the perfect storm

of a strike by French ferry workers, which saw capacity across the busy route dramatically reduced, and repeated attempts by migrants to invade the entry point in Coquelles, thus forcing services through the tunnel to be reduced or significantly delayed.

All of which means with no route across the Channel, police are left with little choice but to start managing the inevitable backlog of articulated trucks.

To do that, they implement certain

phases of Operation Stack, which normally means closing the coast bound carriageway in stages between Folkestone and Maidstone.

The knock-on effect is that the smaller roads are forced to cater for extra traffic and that creates a county-wide problem.

There are three phases – closing junctions eight to nine gives enough space for 2,100 lorries; nine to 11 adds another 1,500, and finally shutting the London-bound carriageway between eight and nine as



**READY:** Stacked's cast, left, and musician Yiannis Zaronis, above

well creates space for 5,700. Roughly, it costs Kent Police just over £23,000 a week with just over 100 people over 24 hours.

The Kent-based Freight Transport Association estimates it costs Britain's businesses some £250m a day as the 2.5 million annual

freight movements are disrupted.

Last summer, things were so bad in the heat, even Kent County Council was called in as driver-welfare became a concern, and together with the Red Cross, distributed 18,000 bottles of water and 6,500 meals.



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# BBC adds value at roadshow visit

It is the long-running series which for many is what Sunday evening television is all about. And Fiona Bruce and the Antiques Roadshow team welcomed thousands of visitors to the historic Ightham Mote

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

**B**ARGAIN hunters flocked to Sevenoaks last week as the Antiques Roadshow rolled into town.

The BBC's brought crews to Ightham Mote on Thursday to film two episodes of its flagship programme in front of thousands of visitors.

Fiona Bruce and her team of experts descended on the historic National Trust site as locals brought in family heirlooms and other items of interest to be valued.

Dame Helen Ghosh, director general of the National Trust, was among those to visit on the day, see behind the scenes and take part in some of the filming action, while Len Goodman, judge of Strictly Come Dancing, who lives nearby, also made a guest appearance.

Bernadette Gillow, general manager of Ightham Mote said: "We welcomed nearly 4,000 visitors on site for the filming day and it went without a hitch.

"It was a true team effort and community event, involving more than 100 staff and volunteers and various local community groups including Ightham WI and the catering students of West Kent college running the tea tent.

"A really special day, one to remember".

Simon Shaw, BBC Antiques Roadshow series producer, said about the experience of filming at Ightham Mote: "We are incredibly lucky to work at such magical places on the Antiques Roadshow.

"Your wonderful team made us feel so welcome and it was a joyous experience for us to be with such a fantastic and well led group."

The programmes are due to be broadcast sometime in the late au-



**COST:** The lure of getting your family heirlooms valued by the experts from the BBC TV show proved too much for many as huge crowds turned out

turn and/or early in the next year.

Last year, a leather jacket that belonged to former US President John F Kennedy, and is now owned by a Deal man, was valued on the show when it visited Walmer Castle.

The jacket's owner, Canon Carl Arvidsson, told the programme how it was handed down to him by his father, whose best friend had family

connections with Swedish aristocrat Gunilla von Post.

Antiques Roadshow is something of a regular visitor to the county, with episodes also filmed at Leeds Castle, Hever Castle and Chatham's Historic Dockyard in recent years.

In 2015 nearly 35,000 people attended Antiques Roadshow over the course of the year.



**ACTION:** Fiona Bruce and co will be seen in the episode broadcast later this year. All pictures: ADAM SWAINE



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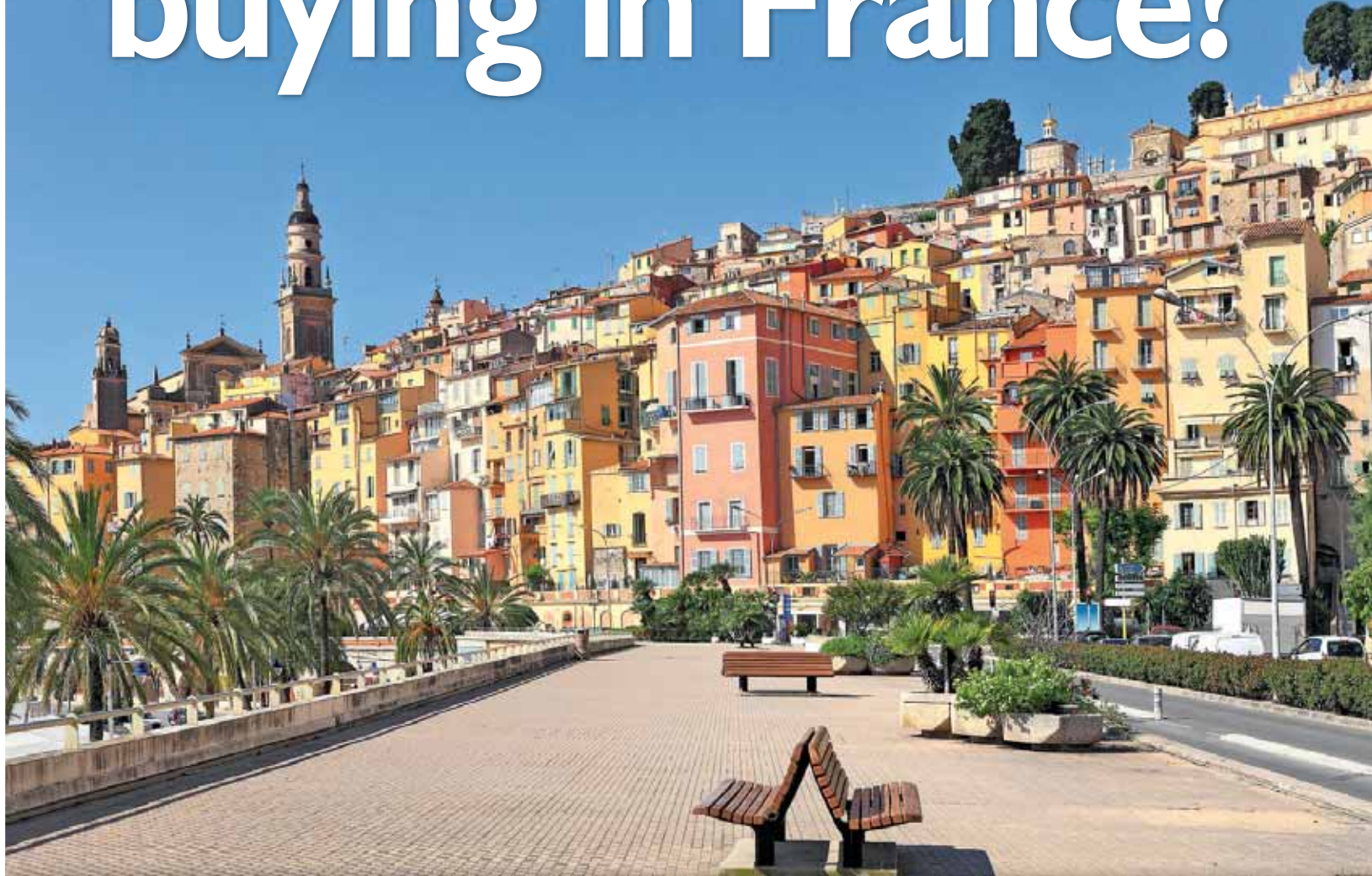
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**BRIGHT:** The castle, near Edenbridge, has a new garden exhibition in addition to its remarkable array of roses and other blooms

## Castle garden dazzles with blooms for its special week

Historic Hever Castle opens its gates for its annual In Bloom event this Monday

**I**T WAS easy to miss the official start of summer this week, as we once again dodged the rain clouds and savoured what little sunshine was on offer.

But the wet weather and bursts of sunshine are at least ensuring some of the county's finest gardens are blooming in style.

And no more so than at the historic Hever Castle, which this week will throw open its doors for its Hever in Bloom event.

Running from June 27 to July 3, it will showcase the gardens at the childhood home of Anne Boleyn.

Among its glorious displays will be selections of some of the finest roses and summer blooms.

There will be free guided tours, taking approximately one hour, led by the Hever Castle gardening team.

Explains a spokesman for the

castle: "The tours will allow visitors to learn about many of the plants grown throughout the grounds and the fascinating history of the gardens.

"Visitors can then head inside the castle to see stunning English floral displays decorating many of the rooms."

At this time of year the gardens are at the height of their summer beauty.

The walled Rose Garden is planted in blocks of colour from palest pink to deep crimson and rich purple. Varieties range from the Alba and Bourbon to Hybrid Tea and Floribunda including our very own 'Hever Castle Rose' (Horquinsey) launched by the actress and regular visitor to the castle, Dame Judi Dench.

In addition, there will be daily workshops taking place through-

out the week giving the chance to learn the ropes of floristry; creating a hand tied post to take home using a variety of flowers.

Workshops take approximately 45mins to 1 hour, cost £12 per person and can be pre-booked online in advance.

In addition, there will be a series of easy to understand gardening talks and demonstrations given by the Hever Castle Royal Horticultural Society tutors on gardening topics such as medicinal plants, poisons and potions, trees, arboriculture and shady gardening. Talks take place at 1.30pm and 3.00pm on Half Moon Lawn and vary daily.

Adds the spokesman: "We also have Astors' Garden Legacy, a new garden exhibition which brings the rich heritage of Hever Castle gardens to life.

"Tracing the development of the gardens from Tudor times to the present day, this interactive garden exhibition in the potting shed fuses archive imagery with informative display panels and modern technology."

Hever Castle's gardens were laid out between 1904 – 1908 by Joseph Cheal and Son to display William Waldorf Astor's unique collection of Greek and Roman statuary collected while he was American Ambassador to Italy.

Gardens open at 10.30am; the castle opens at noon. Last admission is 4.30pm and the final exit 6pm.

Admission prices – castle and gardens: Adults £16.50, seniors £14.40, children (5-15) £9.30. Family ticket £43.60. For further details see the website: [hevercastle.co.uk](http://hevercastle.co.uk) or call 01732 865224.

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**PAT**, petite blonde lady, GSOH, young looking for her age, seeks genuine gent any age with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422393

**KATIE** 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+. Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3002 Box 419673

**RITA**, seeks a genuine male for friendship, days out, she's very friendly, genuine and social, give her a call ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422403

**KIM** 32yrs, attractive blonde lady seeks discreet gent for daytime distractions. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3006 Box 421657

**MERRY**, widow, dark hair, kind and caring, hoping to meet a kind gent for friendship, possibly more. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422339

**JANE**, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. Tel: No: 0906 515 3010 Box: 409715

**BARBARA**, is a caring lady who seeks a man to care for, she will do anything to make you happy. Just give her a call today. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422411

**ANGELA**, 53, African origin, looking for a kind, genuine, caring gentleman, 60 years +. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421039

**ORIENTAL** lady, honest, caring, loves walking, WLTW a reliable, sincere man for LTR. Text only Mailbox: 5443434

**KERRY**, 35yrs, married in open relationship, attractive, tall, slim and very presentable. Seeks discreet gent any age for casual pleasurable encounters. Tel: 0906 515 3042 Box 422363

**50YRS**, old attractive lady, Sheila, caring honest, seeks discreet gent. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422469

**SOPHIA** young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel: 0906 515 3018 Box: 413399

**GENUINE**, GSH, attractive, outgoing professional female, 55. Enjoys keeping fit, socialising and travel, WLTW similar male for relationship. Text only Mailbox: 5453851

**EMILY**, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3022 Box 421375

**MATURE** lady early 80s, family orientated, likes dancing, holidays especially cruising, WLTW similar aged gentleman with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421427

**WENDY**, mature, passionate ladylike divorcee seeks no strings casual friendship/fun with gent any age. Tel: 0906 515 3034 Box 421605

**JO**, mature understanding worldly Essex lady, seeks generous gent for regular fetish fantasy role-play, discretion assured. Text only Mailbox: 5320299

**LUCY**, 32, blonde, tall and slim, looking for a casual fling, nothing serious. Discretion needed and assured. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420237

**SINGLE** slim female, 68, n/s, GSOH, likes cooking, walking etc, seeks male, single, slim 65-70, n/s, with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420091

**SLIM** female GSOH, 5'3, Likes walking, pub lunches, days out, looking for soul mate, smart appearance, similar interests N/S GSOH, easy going. Text only to Mailbox no: 4762600

**KIND** lady, 50s, been broken hearted, seeks kind, genuine man for caring relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419889

**MARION**, early 70s, young at heart, GSOH, active, likes walking, gardening, meals out, travel, theatre and animals, looking for male friendship to share interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419657

**ESSEX** lady, mid 60's, adaptable, seeking nice male, most things. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418537

**FELICITY**, well educated, sophisticated lady, 38yrs, unhappily married and looking for a distraction with a man 30+, must be discreet. Text Only Box: 4023417

**FEMALE**, blue eyes, slim and pretty, from South Africa, young fifties, seeking a sincere, retired gentleman, who resides close to the sea. Text only Mailbox: 5456242

**LAURA**, single mum, 29yrs, blue eyed blonde, fair skinned, pretty, Lonely and seeking adult company when the kids are in bed! ACA. Text Only Box: 4161735

**SINGLE** late 60s female, n/s, GSOH, likes going out and being active, not fun on my own, seeking single male, 66-70, n/s, with GSOH, to share each other's interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421433

**MATURE** lady early 80s, family orientated, likes dancing, holidays especially cruising, WLTW similar aged gentleman with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421429

**FEMALE**, young 58, 5ft2, size 14, blonde, bubbly, GSOH, warm, loving, kind and caring, loves music, animals, seaside, looking for that special someone. Text only Mailbox: 4715158

**GENUINE** single female 49, genuine good natured, intelligent, polite, single male for friendship/relationship. Text only to Mailbox: 4198603

**KIND**, caring lady of African origin, living in UK for past 20 years, looking for a gentleman who is kind and caring, must have a GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421041

**BEN**, kind caring gent, 37yrs, very tall and well built with curly black hair. Own home, good job, just missing a special lady. Text Only Box: 4158248

**MALE**, widower, n/s, would love to meet buxom friendly lady, up to 70, for friendship at first, interests include all types of music, walking, quizzes. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422957

**HELLO** my name is Paul, 43, 5ft9, from Sittingbourne in Kent, looking for someone to have some fun with and see where it goes! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422905

**WRITER**, tall, slim, fit, natural dark hair, generous, seeks lady for erotic rendezvous, I will make it worth your while! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422777

**SUGAR** Daddy available! Mature, tall, slim, natural dark hair, seeks lady, age unimportant. Not afraid of commitment. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418889

**PHILLIP**, 66, into farming and country life, looking for a loyal, genuine lady, someone I can trust to go on holidays with and spend time together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422699

**TONY**, early 60s, 6ft, slim, fit, easy going, looking for no strings fun with a lady, age unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422643

**CHANTELLE**, 5ft3 light brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, like nights in/out, walks, animals, romance seeks honest guy. Littlehampton. Text only to Mailbox no: 4923883

**MARIE**, very lonely middle-aged woman, looking for a kind hearted older man, late 70s/early 80s for friendship/companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418955

**RACHEL** late 40s, blonde, blue eyes and very voluptuous. Looking for a kind, caring honest man. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418741

**AMANDA**, 36, tall, slim, busty brunette seeks man, any age, any area, for discreet daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418117

**HELEN**, widow 58, medium build, 5ft 4ins, blonde, GSOH, likes a chat, days out, looking to start again with someone of similar age. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376243

**FEMALE**, 59, GSOH, many interests, seeks caring male for fun friendship maybe more, genuine calls only. Text only to Mailbox No: 4819793

**GORGEOUS** flower, Ashford Kent, 51, larger lady, large personality, easy going, seeks male who likes dogs, animals for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417435

**FEMALE** easy going, kind, loving, genuine, romantic, car boots, gardening, seeking male with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417603

**PAT**, 68, young at heart, slim, proud 4' 11" GSOH, N/S, likes walking etc Whistable area, seeks similar slim easy going male 60-70. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419081

**SUSIE** fit, friendly, looking for someone to love and look after me, preferably, older, N/S male with own car. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392537

**LIVELY** old boy, OHAC, near sea in Folkestone, into red wine, garlic and Radio 3, seeks lady companion/lover, 58-68 y.o. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422621

**HANDSOME** male, mid 40s, dark hair, hazel eyes, wishes to meet appropriate female for fun, friendship and perhaps more, please get in touch if interested. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422587

**LOCAL** Sevenoaks man, seeks local lady for fun and friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417127

**PAUL**, 52, seeks loving female for exciting times, meals out, weekends away, cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418077

**MALE**, 54, shyish, looking for times with a lady, 60-70, with GSOH, status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422431

**PAUL**, 49 5ft 8ins likes eating/nights in/out seeks loving female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404013

**PROFESSIONAL**, romantic male, 44, likes meals out, cinema, music, holidays, seeks female, 30-55 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 250195

**CHRIS**, from Folkestone, 71, 5ft9, widower, green eyes, lonely, n/s, OHAC, likes gardening, the coast, pubs, dining out, holidays, cruises, days out, WLTW similar lady to share interests, can travel. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422375

**PAUL** GSOH, 5ft 8ins, medium build, seeking Miss Right for LTR to put the spark back into life. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391970

**MIKE**, 64, outgoing person, enjoys life, likes sport, cricket, nice meals out, holidays, WLTW someone to share interests and quality time. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422329

**COLIN**, 56, 6ft, medium build, clean and tidy with a tidy beard, I'm after some TLC with no strings adult fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422359

**WIDOWER** 67, N/S, likes real ale, country music, gardening, DIY, seeks N/S female for lots of TLC. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381143

**CHRIS** widower, likes DIY, gardening, nights out, rock and roll, N/S, looking for LTR with female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410191

**MALE**, 6ft, slim, 67, divorced, retired, likes social drinks, meals out, nights in and all other, WLTW lady with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421351

**FRIENDLY** passionate male, 55, 6ft, medium build, clean, discreet, lots of TLC to offer, seeks female for fun times. Canterbury Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381222

**OUTGOING** male, seeking attractive female, likes sports, music, cinema and nights out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414793

**PAUL**, 48, 5ft 8ins, GSOH, likes music, cinema, seeks female for fun, friendship and LTR. Tunbridge Wells. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371985

**MALE**, 58, very outgoing, looking for attractive female, slim to medium build, for adult fun and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421883

**RETIRED**, smart, 68 year old, 5ft5, I enjoy eating, walking, holidays and golf. WLTW a slim, attractive lady, 60-68, for a loving, tender relationship, to enjoy these times with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421853

**MALE**, 55, looking for mature lady for outings and adult fun, easy going, GSOH, nice looking and a bit shy. Text only Mailbox: 4922399

**YOUNG** 50s male looking for discreet daytime kisses and cuddles with nice female. Kent and Sussex. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421601

**FEMININE** sensual female, slim-medium build wanted by slim, kind male for daytime meets, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414809

**JIM** 45, slim 5'8, blue eyes, short brown hair, very fit, would like to meet older lady for regular N S A fun. East Sussex. Text only Mailbox: 4529089

**NEIL**, Looking to meet lady for fun, possible LTR with someone special, accom and travel w/Sussex, age/looks unimportant. Text only Mailbox: 4358323

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**HARLOW** male, 40, kind, attractive, happy, considerate looking to meet slim female for LTR, children welcome. Text only Mailbox: 5468389

**FRIENDLY** passionate male, 55, 6ft, medium build, clean, discreet, lots of TLC to offer, seeks female for fun times. Canterbury Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381222

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**NEIL**, Looking to meet lady for fun, possible LTR with someone special, accom and travel w/Sussex, age/looks unimportant. Text only Mailbox: 4358323

**MALE**, 50, 6ft 4ins, well built, divorced gent, looking to date calm and kind lovely lady. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421195

**MALE**, 54, looking for discreet lady, 60-70, for adult fun and a special friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421085

**BARRY**, 50, 6ft, well-built, seeks lovely lady for good times, loving and enjoying life. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421047

**DAVE** 64 solvent, working, not bad looking, would like to meet slim, fun to be with female, 50 to 60, to get to know. Chelmsford area. Text only to Mailbox: 4368820



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**SHY** male seeks confident, strong willed lady, to take the lead for mutual fun, looks/age unimportant. ACA Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421223

**MALE**, 50, 6ft 4ins, well built, divorced gent, looking to date calm and kind lovely lady. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421195

**MALE**, 54, looking for discreet lady, 60-70, for adult fun and a special friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421085

**BARRY**, 50, 6ft, well-built, seeks lovely lady for good times, loving and enjoying life. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421047

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**EASY** going, friendly guy, slim, n/s, likes the outdoors, gardening, cinema, theatre, music, WLTW a nice guy, 50-60s. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422741

**PETER**, bi male, aged 68, inexperienced seeks bi male for fun and friendship. Text only Mailbox: 5459879

**MALE** medium build, likes outdoors, DIY, seeking slim, N/S guy for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403267

**MATURE** bi male seeks similar for fun and friendship. Text only Mailbox: 4641909

**EASYGOING** guy, 62, likes outdoors, countryside, walks, seeks slim, N/S quiet guy for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333477

**GAY** male, 68, likes walks, books, seeks N/S guy for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411413

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# Sound of summer set to take to the streets of county town

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

**S**INGERS, dancers and artists will deliver a splash of colour over the streets of the county town next weekend as the Maidstone Summer Festival kicks off.

Following on from last year's successful Maidstone Parade, the one-day festival will take place across the town centre.

Organised by One Maidstone, the town's community interest company (CIC), its committee chairman Ken Scott said the event should be something everyone in the district can be proud of.

He explained: "Last year's parade was a great success and this year's festival promises to be even bigger and better, with a whole afternoon of entertainment, music and dance. It should bring business into the town and prove great fun, both for those watching and those taking part. Hopefully there will be sunshine too."

Shops have been asked to deck out their windows in bright colours next Saturday as local talent takes to the streets.



**BEAT:** The hugely popular samba band Bloco Fogo will be performing in Maidstone next Saturday

Three samba bands, three dance schools, singers, school groups and baton twirlers are among those planning to take part in displays at venues around the town.

Much of the action will take place in Jubilee Square with other dance and music displays in Brenchley Gardens, Fremlin Walk and St Faith's Street.

There will also be 'wacky bikes' in Brenchley Gardens, a street art-

ist in Jubilee Square and face-painters in two locations, plus a variety of street entertainment, including yarn bombing, balloon modelling, stilt walkers and magicians who will roam the town throughout the afternoon.

Maidstone Baton Twirlers will be joined by Bloco Fogo, Old School Samba and the Maidstone Grammar's Baterias Not Included and seven local musical bands.

In addition, there will be headline performances from Hobo Jones and the Junkyard Dogs and Get Inuit, Rhonda and the Great Unknown and the popular local folk band Larkspur.

Other performers include the Margaret Preedy Dance School, Mandy Ellen Performing Arts and Irish folk dancers from Frydays Academy. Activities get under way from noon and continue through the day until 4pm.

## Drummers whip up a Deal

THE Mugenkyo Taiko Drummers will perform as St George's Church on July 8 as part of the Deal Festival. They are the UK's only professional touring taiko group with a high energy production.



## Hook at Hythe Festival

THE Hythe Festival runs from July 1-10, with organisers saying it will be bigger and better than ever before.

Events take place around the town, culminating in the Seafrost Spectacular on its final day which includes a performance of Hook by the Brockhill Park Performing Arts College.

## 'Free' Dreamland a big hit

CROWDS at Dreamland in Margate doubled last weekend as it celebrated its first birthday by making the park free to enter and pay-to-ride.

More than 14,000 attended with opening hours extended.



## Jazz star's theatre night

STAR of the 2014 Birmingham Jazz Festival, Rachel Hutchings, will be playing in Folkestone on Tuesday night.

The performer, whose voice has been compared with the legendary Billie Holiday, performs at the Tower Theatre in Shorncliffe with the Cliff Hall Trio.

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## Diverse venues for the Bard

WILLIAM Shakespeare's All's Well That Ends Well will be playing at the likes of Hadlow College, Margate seafront and Biddenden Vineyard this summer – staged by the Changeling Theatre.



## Kemsing date for folk trio

FOLK trio Jaywalkers will be performing in Sevenoaks next month. The former BBC Young Folk Award finalists are touring their third studio album - Weave - which sees them further expanding their musical horizons at all levels. They play at St Edith Folk in Kemsing on July 1.

## From soap to whodunnit

EASTENDERS villain Alex Ferns, who played the dreaded wife-beater Trevor Horn in the soap, will be at Dartford's Orchard Theatre in whodunnit Rehearsal of Murder, running from September 19-24.



## Opera screening on beach

RAMSGATE Festival floats into view at the end of next month – coinciding with the town's sailing regatta.

Events run from July 23-31 with bands, parades, stalls, art, walks, talks and storytelling all on the agenda, plus a screening of the opera Eugene Onegin on the beach.

# Wedding Singer tour has X Factor ingredient

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

**T**HE cast for the eagerly anticipated touring production of The Wedding Singer musical has been confirmed, ahead of it swooping into three local theatres next year. Based on the hugely successful hit movie, which starred Adam Sandler and Drew Barrymore, the musical has proved a big hit with its soundtrack from the 1980s and slick comedy.

The show will play a run of shows at Dartford's Orchard Theatre, the Churchill in Bromley and the Assembly Hall in Tunbridge Wells during 2017.

Among the line-up for the production will be X Factor star Ray Quinn and Hi De Hi's Ruth Madoc. It also features West End favourites Jon Robyns and Cassie Compton and former Emmerdale star Roxanne Pallett.

Robyns plays the main role of Robbie Hart, fresh from his performance in Legally Blonde as Emmett Forrest.

Set in 1985, it follows the



fortunes of New Jersey wedding singer Robbie Hart. When his own fiancée dumps him at the altar he makes every wedding as disastrous as his own.

Can sweet natured Julia (portrayed by X Factor finalist Compton) and her best friend Holly (depicted by Waterloo Road star Pallett) lure Robbie out of the blues and back into the limelight? Or is he going to see her head off down the aisle with Wall Street bad boy Glen (played by X Factor runner-up Quinn)?

Comedy veteran Ruth Madoc joins the company as Grandma Rosie.

The Wedding Singer 2017 UK tour, which features many of the hits performed in the original movie, is directed and choreographed by Nick Winston.

The show plays in Dartford from March 21-25, before heading to Bromley from August 1-5. A month later it returns to the county for a string of shows in Tunbridge Wells from September 5-9. Tickets are on sale now.



**ORIGINAL:** Adam Sandler in the hit movie



**ORIGINAL:** Drew Barrymore was Julia in the film version

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# How to create a garden kind to dogs and owners

Ever get put off creating a green-fingered masterpiece for fear your pets will dig it up? This may help...

**A**WARD-winning garden designer Paul Hervey-Brookes has three dogs – two Spaniels, Honey and Arthur and a Japanese Chin called Nina – none of whom have yet trashed his beautiful garden. But then Hervey-Brookes is confident that you can easily share your space with your pooches without having them dig up the lawn or eat your prized flowers.

His show garden, A Dog's Life for this year's Hampton Court Flower Show should give owners food for thought.

Features include sniffer tracks weaving through the herbaceous borders for dogs to forage and sniff out treats, a woodland area which incorporates a ramp over a raised wall for agility,

while leaf litter areas within the planting allows dogs to dig and scratch.

"Arthur is a bit more boisterous than the other two and likes to run around and run through things, which is what gave us the idea of making these little weaving paths," Hervey-Brookes explains.

"The damage that was happening was accidental, because of his excitement, so we looked at how we could accommodate that in a way that keeps the garden looking attractive, not ruined."

Honey likes rolling around in the gravel or on grass, while Nina enjoys foraging for little chews and treats which her master leaves hidden for her to find in the garden.

"She'd find them and chew and have



**HAPPY:** Select the right plants and it can keep your pets content

a little sleep, just to help calm her down. We used a lot of planting in the garden which has that calming quality, like lavender, so that going out for a walk became much more of a place where they run and bound. Going into the garden is much more gentle exercise. There's a bit of training there."

His dogs have been trained to do their business at a particular point on a gravel path, which makes it easier to clean up.

Amateur gardeners could make raised beds incorporating tunnels under them, so their dogs have things to run through. "As long as that inquisitive characteristic is being channelled, the chances are they're not going to get bored and just dig in one place."

"Dogs don't destructively dig things

up just for the sake of it. If a foliage is scented, they might rub up against it or have a little nibble, but nine times out of 10 that's as far as it goes.

"It's about thinking sensibly. If you've got alliums which are a bit fragile, don't plant them right at the front of the border, let them grow through something like a woody shrub, so there's less risk of damage."

Retain a good structural backbone of shrubs, which will keep the garden looking neat all year round, he advises.

"Use robust, hard-working perennials which are going to have a long season of interest and don't mind taking the odd knock. There's no point using very delicate plants which your pet might damage because you're just going to get cross with the dog."

## Chatham's comedy gig

BRIDGEWOOD Manor Hotel will host the latest outing by the Comedy Club Chatham on Friday, July 8.

Three comedians will perform on the night with tickets, costing £25, including a two-course meal.

Doors open at 7pm and the comedy performers take to the stage at 9pm, followed by a disco.

For details see [www.thecomedyclub.co.uk](http://www.thecomedyclub.co.uk).

## Charity's summer fair

ELLENOR is holding its annual summer fair on July 9 – a fun-filled day giving the charity the chance to raise vital funds for its services caring for families facing terminal illness.

The fair runs from 11am to 3pm at Ellenor's site in Coldharbour Road, Gravesend.

There will be stalls and entertainment throughout the day; visit the website [www.ellenor.org/events](http://www.ellenor.org/events) for more details.

## Life begins again at 50

TV STARS Jan Leeming, from Deal, Tunbridge Wells' Rosemary Shrager and Dr Hilary Jones from Sevenoaks will all be appearing at the 50+ Show at London's Olympia between July 15-16.

The event 'celebrates maturity' and is the largest exhibition of its kind for the over-50s and those wanting to make the most of their lives.

Admission is free if registering in advance online.

## Solid gold of the 1960s

THE Searchers, Brian Poole and the Tremeloes, Wayne Fontana, PJ Proby and special guests from the US, Gary Puckett and Union Gap pay homage to the 1960s in a tour heading our way later this year.

They perform at the Central Theatre Chatham on September 24, Margate's Winter Gardens on October 7 and Dartford's Orchard Theatre on October 9.

Tickets for the dates are available now.

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We are delighted to announce the launch of the Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards 2016



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NOMINATIONS are now being invited for the 2016 Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards. The awards dinner will take place at Ashford International Hotel on October 17 from 6.30pm to midnight.

The prestigious awards, which launched in 2013, are designed to champion, highlight and offer a showcase to the great and the good of the region's food and drink industry, including local producers and suppliers, small farming businesses, chefs, restaurants, pubs, cafes and hoteliers.

All will be people who care about the countryside and the future of our local environment.

The companies included will all be nominated by you, our Kent Life and Kent on Sunday readers.

We want to know if you've enjoyed a fantastic meal at your local pub or have been impressed by the produce

and service at your neighbourhood farmers' market or farm shop.

The nomination form is available here and will be repeated. It is also available to complete online at kentfda.co.uk, where you can read more about the awards and see pictures of last year's winners.

Entries close on August 7. Our handpicked panel of high-profile judges who all live or work in Kent will then select a shortlist, starting the independent judging process where finalists will be visited or interviewed to determine a worthy winner in each category.

All finalists will be invited to the prestigious awards ceremony, where they will enjoy a reception and three-course meal with wine before finding out if they are a winner.

This is our fourth Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards and we are immensely proud to be able to offer you once again the opportunity to reward and recognise

the deserving businesses within our local food and drink industry that go above and beyond expectations.

These awards are what you make of them so if you are the owner of a restaurant, a chef or local producer then spread the word among your clients, customers and visitors.

It takes no time at all to make your nomination. You can email, post or nominate online.

We are looking for quality over quantity, focusing on good comments rather than simply the number of nominations received, so everybody is in with a chance no matter how big or small their business.

■ Don't forget to let us know when you have made your recommendation on our Twitter page @kentlife and @KOSMedia by using #kentfda – similarly, if you are looking for nominations, please use this hashtag

Kent Life and  
Kent on Sunday  
Food & Drink  
Awards 2016  
Nomination Form

Nominate your Kent food and drink favourites by using this form or email us at [kentfda@archant.co.uk](mailto:kentfda@archant.co.uk)

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Copies of the form and posters to advertise your entry are available \_\_\_at [www.kent-life.co.uk](http://www.kent-life.co.uk) and at [www.kentnews.co.uk](http://www.kentnews.co.uk).

The closing date for entries is Sunday, August 7, 2016

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## NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR



This popular category is open to anyone in the food and drink industry who has started a new venture within the last 18 months.

We want to know what impact they have made on the local community and if they have started to achieve any success further afield.

Are they helping to promote Kent food and drink to a new audience or have they found a new way to promote an old favourite?

## INDEPENDENT FOOD OR DRINK RETAILER OF THE YEAR



This celebrates that special food or drink shop that we all treasure.

The retailer who includes wonderful local produce in their offering and knows where all their stock comes from to make that special link between field and plate.

Our winner will have a special 'must-have' range as well as making a real contribution to their local community.

Paying a visit to their shop will be a treat in itself.

## CAFE OF THE YEAR



This category has changed from the previous Tea Shop of the Year to include places that also specialise in coffee! Tea and coffee shops are an integral

part of the Kent food and drink scene. Who makes the best tea and coffees, serves the nicest cakes and biscuits and the freshest scones? Are the sandwiches freshly cut and liberally filled?

Most importantly, are most of the ingredients locally sourced? We look forward to hearing your favourites.

## FOOD PRODUCER OF THE YEAR



This category celebrates our local producers.

We are looking for someone who consistently provides both top quality local produce and service to their customers.

We are also keen to hear of any innovations.

If they're doing something new, we'd like to hear about it.

So if your local baker, grocer or farmer delights then please let us know.

## DRINK PRODUCER OF THE YEAR

This category celebrates our local drink producers.

Whether it's gorgeous Kentish fizz or delicious juice, we want to find the producers who play such a vital role in the county's food and drink economy.

We want to know who you think makes the best drink, alcoholic or not, in the county, and what it is that makes it so special.

We are keen to hear of any innovations, so if they're doing something new, for example, introducing a fabulous new flavour, then we would like to all hear about it.

## FARM SHOP OF THE YEAR

A good farm shop needs to have that extra-special something to tempt farmers away from their local supermarkets.

Are the staff friendly and knowledgeable, is the range of produce and the layout of an excellent standard, does your local farm shop offer a box scheme?

Is most of the produce sold there grown or raised on that farm, or nearby and if not would the owner be able to tell you where it is from?

Nominate your favourite farm shop now.

## FARMERS' MARKET OF THE YEAR



The key to a good farmers' market is not only the range of produce and the quality of its stalls but also the principles that it supports - for example, does it work as a co-operative with other farmers? Is most of the produce sold there grown or raised locally? Are the stallholders welcoming and knowledgeable? Let us know so we can tell everyone the best place to go.

## PUB OF THE YEAR



A good pub these days has to offer more than a warm welcome and excellent ale. We're looking for an inn that also offers delicious locally-sourced food, fantastic

customer service and real value for money. Pubs are genuinely the hub of their local community.

If you know a great one, even if it isn't your local, let us all know.

## RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR



The Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Restaurant of the Year needs to offer an incomparable

dining experience, from the ambience to the service and most importantly the food. Is it locally sourced? Do they support local producers and are they recognised on the menu? Do they have local as well as international wines and champagnes and can the staff tell you more if you ask?

## CHEF OF THE YEAR



Kent is blessed with some outstanding chefs working in a fantastic array of restaurants. The Chef of the Year should be someone who has devoted him or herself to serving the best possible food. They'll demonstrate technical ability, use of seasonal ingredients, presentation of the food and an understanding of how flavours work together. Above all, we are looking for passion - that magic ingredient that defines true greatness in the kitchen.

## CUSTOMER SERVICE OF THE YEAR



Most of our awards recognise customer

service in some form. This category celebrates this vital element for its own sake.

Do you know a person, organisation or establishment that offers fabulous service that goes above and beyond what you expect?

We all know excellent service when we have received it, now is your chance to get it recognised. If you know a person, company, producer, pub, shop or restaurant that is a delight to deal with, then let us know.

## KENT FOOD AND DRINK HERO OF THE YEAR

Kent has a food and drink scene that is among the most vibrant in the UK - as you would expect from the Garden of England.

As well as being blessed with some of the final local produce around, the county also has a variety of fantastic eateries located in local towns and villages.

This category will be celebrating the individual who has made a positive impact on the county's food or drink community.

Do you know someone who goes the extra mile in order to help promote Kent to a wider audience?

Someone who has shown that they are passionate about local produce throughout?

Now is the chance for you to nominate your very own Kent Food and Drink hero and give them the recognition that they deserve.

Get in contact with us and let us know who you think would be a worthy winner.

## The Captain Digby

The Captain Digby is an award winning family restaurant in Thanet and one of the most popular places to visit all year round. The Digby caters for couples and families alike with fantastic views overlooking Kingsgate Bay for the adults and an indoor play area for the children. It's well worth a visit, a warm welcome awaits.

The Captain Digby, Kingsgate, Broadstairs, CT10 3QH  
www.captaindigby.co.uk | 01843 867 764

## Tartar Frigate

The historic Tartar Frigate is one of the only 18th century flint restaurants in Kent. Widely renowned as one of the best seafood restaurants in Kent, the Harbour restaurant boasts stunning panoramic views over Viking Bay in Broadstairs. If seafood isn't for you then you can take advantage of the extensive menu, which also includes mouth watering traditional dishes from around the world.

37-39 Harbour St, Broadstairs, Kent CT10 1EU  
www.tartarfrigate.co.uk | 01843 862 013

## The Charles Dickens

Welcome to the The Charles Dickens Pub. One of the largest pubs in Broadstairs, with the main bar downstairs serving great pub food, fine wine and ales and the Copperfields restaurant and bar upstairs commanding excellent views of Viking Bay. The chef's menus contain classic British ingredients, many of which are locally sourced and cooked with a modern twist.

5-6 Victoria Parade, Broadstairs CT10 1QS  
www.charlesdickensbroadstairs.co.uk | 01843 600 160

## Pegwell Bay Hotel

In our bar/restaurant, we have mouth watering fare to please every palate. With a selection of Roast dinners being offered alongside our main menu, come and indulge in our home cooked delights and enjoy the views across the bay. Adjacent to the Pegwell Bay Hotel is our Sir Stanley Gray bar & restaurant, which can be accessed by a unique tunnel which runs under the road!

81 Pegwell Rd, Ramsgate CT11 0NJ  
www.pegwellbayhotel.co.uk | 01843 599 590





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Prince's, Prince's Drive, Sandwich Bay, Kent CT13 9QB

 **THE WHITE HORSE INN**



Come and visit the newly refurbished White Horse Inn at Bridge. Dating back to the 16th century, this former coaching inn is located on the old London to Dover Road just 2.5 miles south of Canterbury.

Sample the delights of our bar and restaurant menus developed by our new chef, with the focus on fresh, flavoursome, locally sourced ingredients. Choose from our extensive and recently updated range of cask ales, ciders and wines.

Relax and enjoy the ambience of a traditional pub, with beamed ceilings and roaring fires. Open every day, with ample car parking at rear. We look forward to welcoming you.

T: 01227 833830 E: [info@whitehorsebridge.co.uk](mailto:info@whitehorsebridge.co.uk) W: [www.whitehorsebridge.co.uk](http://www.whitehorsebridge.co.uk) 

**Summer fun at the Captain Digby**

Enjoy the Summer with a family visit to the Captain Digby. There's lots of activities to keep the kids happy including our indoor and outdoor play areas.

The award winning restaurant is perfect for couples and families alike and is one of our most popular places to dine all year round.

*Book your table now on line to avoid disappointment or call on the number below*



**The Captain Digby Kingsgate**  
Broadstairs, CT10 3QH  
Tel: 01843 867764  
[www.captaindigby.co.uk](http://www.captaindigby.co.uk)

**THORLEY TAVERNS**









**One60** is the new International al la carte restaurant in Tonbridge, 100 meters north of the Tonbridge castle, owned by brothers Roland and Roy. The menu created by Roy, the head chef, has been influenced by his time spent in New Zealand, Goa, Coastal Africa and London. Wine and dine at **One60** and enjoy the ambience and sumptuous food

**Opening times: Tuesdays – Saturdays**  
Lunch: 12:00 – 14:00  
Dinner: 18:00 – 22:00  
Sunday: 12:00 – 14:00  
Drinks available from 17:00 – an exclusive range of high quality wines available at reasonable prices

For our menu, check out our website: [www.one60.uk](http://www.one60.uk)  
Bookings: Call 01732 369 244 or email [enquiries@one60.uk](mailto:enquiries@one60.uk)  
160 High Street, Tonbridge TN9 1BB

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[www.thegeorgeyalding.co.uk](http://www.thegeorgeyalding.co.uk)

01622 814376  
The George Yalding Benover Road, Yalding, Maidstone, Kent ME18 6EJ

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[www.doddingtonplacegardens.co.uk](http://www.doddingtonplacegardens.co.uk) Telephone 01795 886101





## Brasserie on the Bay offers wonderful menu

EVEN before you walk through the door, The Brasserie on the Bay at Prince's Golf Club treats you to stunning views across Sandwich Bay and the cliffs towards Ramsgate, upon passing through our doors a genuinely warm welcome awaits you.

Diners will enjoy the contemporary feel of the Lounge or the sunny terrace overlooking the golf course whilst they anticipate the wonderful menu to follow and savour chef's selection of canapes.

Furthermore, chef Ricky Smith prides himself on his local approach to menus, inspired by seasonal Kentish produce, he works with local suppliers to ensure consistent quality.

For example chef's signature dish: Nespresso Rubbed Locally Reared Fillet of Beef, hickory smoked mash, scorched onion purée, morel mushroom, young kale and served



with a madeira jus.

There is also an extensive Bar menu on offer featuring excellent local seafood including oysters and mussels or chef's homemade selection of burgers which will satisfy even the most

voracious of appetites.

Whether a lunch, dinner or Special occasion the Brasserie on the Bay is the ideal location for your dining experience, please call reservations on 01304 611118, or email reservations@princesgolfclub.co.uk



## One60 boasts first class food

IF YOU want a taste of first class international cuisine without having to travel far, then new restaurant One60 is the perfect dining destination, owned by brothers Roy and Roland, One60 can offer you your classic dishes with a global twist.

Being part Kenyan and part Goan, Roy and Roland have a great knowledge of working with interesting flavours – spicy goan prawns, Kenyan sweet and spicy nuts, Chicken Bombs and Goan Cheesecake are not typically found in Tonbridge but thanks to the brothers locals can now enjoy such culinary delights.

With locally sourced produce supplied by Ian Chatfield Butchers and Chapman's in Sevenoaks for our fish, One60 have fresh food on their menu every day. Local wines produced by Ellis, who have been in business for 200 years, are available to accompany your dish and One60 are supplied with exclusive bottles you won't get on the High Street or in any other restaurant in Tonbridge.

With good quality food, great service and a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere, the brothers are determined to give their customers a really great experience.



**ONE60:** In Tonbridge High Street

kentnews.co.uk kent-life.co.uk



**SERVICE:** An award-winning family restaurant and bar overlooking Kingsgate Bay

## A warm welcome awaits you at The Captain Digby in Broadstairs

**W**ELCOME to the Captain Digby! An award-winning family restaurant in Thanet, it is one of the most popular places to dine all year round.

'The Digby' is a family-friendly bar and restaurant catering for all ages overlooking Kingsgate Bay along the coast of Broadstairs. Come and

visit, a warm welcome awaits.

Here at The Digby, we serve great, British, home-cooked food in both the bar and our restaurant.

We pride ourselves on our dishes and our service. We have daily specials on the chalk board if you're feeling adventurous, if not you can enjoy one of our regular favourites from one of our menus.

North & West

You can reserve a table with our online booking. We look forward to your visit and we are sure you will enjoy yourself.

The Captain Digby, Whiteness Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 3QH. Call 01843 867 764, or fax 01843 602 565.

Alternatively, email us as digby@thorleytaaverns.co.uk

## CHEF RECOMMENDS

### The Captain Digby

Whiteness Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 3QH  
Telephone: 01843 867 764  
Website: digby@thorleytaaverns.co.uk

**Starter:** DIGBY CRAB CAKES - breaded crab cakes with white crab meat, fresh dill & spring onion. Served on a bed of mixed leaves with lemon mayonnaise

**Main:** TUNA STEAK - a 7-9oz tuna loin steak cooked on our char-grill. Served with your choice of chips, jacket or new potatoes & either vegetables or mixed leaf salad.

### Prince's Golf Club

Sandwich Bay, Sandwich, Kent, CT13 9QB  
Telephone: +44 1304 611118  
Website: office@princesgolfclub.co.uk

**Starter:** Textures of Abbey Wild Garlic Panna cotta, crisp, pickled ramps, black olive & miso soil, smoked eel, Sauce gribiche

**Main:** Local Texel Lamb Rack Black olive & anchovy tapenade, spring onion, pomme boulangère, aubergine, split lamb jus

**Dessert:** Ginger Parkin Sweet & sour rhubarb, rhubarb sorbet, crème patissiere

### One60

160 Tonbridge High Street, Kent, TN9 1BB  
Telephone: +44 (0)1732 369 244  
Email: enquiries@one60.co.uk

**Starter:** Chicken Bombs - marinated diced breast with a spicy batter served with One60 Hot Sauce

**Main:** Slow-braised Lamb Shank in Red Wine with Dauphinoise Potatoes and braised Red Cabbage

**Dessert:** Affogato - vanilla ice-cream topped with Espresso shot and a choice of Liqueur. Choose from Frangelico, Amaretto, Tia Maria or Amarula



## your say...

Send us your views.  
**Write to:** Kent House,  
 81 Station Road, Ashford,  
 TN23 1PP  
**Email:**  
[editorial@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:editorial@kosmedia.co.uk)  
**Twitter:**  
[@kosmedia](https://twitter.com/kosmedia)

Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances, and a daytime phone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit all letters.

## Manston homes spell car chaos

I FIND the attitude of T Jones and J Bond (KoS, letters recent weeks) typical.

Do we really need more housing in the area especially with the introduction of Westwood Cross which has virtually killed off Ramsgate/Broadstairs/Margate for shopping?

To start building on Manston would be horrendous, it takes me 20 minutes from Broadstairs to get out of Thanet now!

With the introduction of more housing it would be a nightmare.

I fully agree with Pauline Hayfield we need a regional airport with businesses not pie in the sky. I voted Ukip with a promise they would open Manston never again as Pauline has stated they are all completely dysfunctional and need to look at themselves.

**AB Martin,**  
Broadstairs

## Just what has Manston done?

FOR any other commercial venture, if private and public money had been pumped in and yet still it failed, failed to turn a profit, failed to prove attractive to investors, then the thought of a public campaign demanding its survival would be unheard of.

Yet for some reason, Manston Airport is seen as some sort of lynchpin for east Kent – that without it Thanet would collapse. Well, just where are all the jobs and prosperity it was supposed to have brought us?

The Turner Contemporary and Dreamland has done far more for the area than Manston ever has... and even Dreamland seems unable to turn a profit either. But at least that has potential, you feel, if in the right hands and its terrible looking branding given a modern day makeover.

Manston's days as an airfield are over and should remain so. It's time to move on. It's also time for the people of Thanet to come to realise that if they genuinely thought voting for a right wing party like Ukip would be the answer to their dreams, then they have been taught a very harsh lesson in terms of putting their faith in a party who would say anything in a bid to seize power, only to realise they are not equipped, or ready, to deal with it.

**T Long,**  
Ramsgate

## LETTER OF THE WEEK



## Dreamland is now on the right tracks

AT last, common sense has prevailed; the entrance fee to get into the Dreamland amusement park in Margate has been taken away, and pay-per-ride has been introduced (KoS, leisure pages, last week).

I can remember Dreamland in its hey day; I spent a great deal of my youth there.

I don't do rides, but I loved the atmosphere and lots of my friends did go on the rides.

Instead, I played on the side shows.

There was a painting booth where you squeezed paint on to paper that was spinning, and made the most incredible pictures.

This, along with lots of other booths, were all being paid for as you used them.

To my memory, it all started to go wrong when it changed to Bombom Brothers, and they started to charge to go in.

The whole atmosphere

changed as a result, it wasn't the same.

I was in Margate some three weeks ago, and was going to go in to Dreamland.

However, to start with, there was no-one in any of the entrance booths, so no-one to give out any information, and I wasn't going to pay to go in to go on nothing.

There was also a family there with children who I got talking to. They also completely agreed with me about the situation.

So listen up you people that are running it, now we have it back please don't let us loose it again.

Get the sideshows and the booths going again.

If you want to get us 'old faithfuls' back, plus those that didn't know it before, they are not going to pay to come in if it is an unknown entity.

**Jean Osler**  
Staplehurst

## It's all gone quiet over here...

BY the time KoS appears this weekend, the results of the referendum will be known.

I just wondered how your regular letter writers would cope. Every week they have engaged in open warfare over the key issues. Will they accept defeat/victory gracefully or will the debate continue?

I'm not normally a gambling man, but I'd wager they will

struggle to stay quiet and continue to tell anyone who listens that their opinion is the only right one.

I'm almost looking forward to it.

**Kay Townsend,**  
Gillingham

## Support for the older generation

AN estimated 85 per cent of older people with depression don't get any help from the NHS - this figure is deeply worrying.

That's why at Independent Age,

the older people's charity, we want to encourage more older people in the south east to seek help and tackle this serious issue.

To help older people and their families do this, we have brought out a new, free guide called Dealing with Depression. It provides practical information on what can affect mental health, when to see a doctor, where to go for help, staying well and how to help someone you're worried about.

Figures from the Royal College of Psychiatrists suggest depression may affect one in five older people living in the general community and two in five living in care homes. According to the Health & Social Care Information Centre, the proportion of people in contact with mental health services increases significantly after 70.

However, older people are less likely to be diagnosed with depression, often because symptoms can appear different in older people. They're also less likely to be referred for talking therapies, despite these being just as effective for them.

Depression is not a normal part of ageing, and no-one should have to suffer alone if they have concerns about their mental health. There is help available, no matter how long you or an older friend or relative have felt like this. Our new guide will help you know where to turn.

If you're worried about yourself or a loved one, the Dealing with Depression guide is free to order.

You can call 0800 319 6789 and order, or download it from [www.independentage.org](http://www.independentage.org). The free Independent Age Helpline (0800 319 6789) can offer advice on a range of older people's issues so please do get in touch with any concerns.

**Janet Morrison,**  
Chief executive, Independent Age

## Can you help forces charity?

OVER 17,000 soldiers, sailors and airmen left the British armed forces in 2015 and the journey back to Civvy Street can be a difficult time for some of them.

The SSAFA armed forces charity's mentoring programme works alongside the Army, RAF and Royal Navy, to pair up military service leavers with a mentor, as they navigate their first year outside of the Forces. SSAFA is looking to recruit members of the local community in Kent who can listen, support, motivate and inspire those who have served our country, as they make the transition back into civilian life.

**Karen Oldfield,**  
Head of specialist services, SSAFA  
[www.ssafa.org.uk/mentors](http://www.ssafa.org.uk/mentors)

## KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles

**Kent on Sunday will:**

- 1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
- 2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
- 3) Be written in clear, concise English.

- 4) Not be overly sensational.
- 5) Have a sense of humour.
- 6) Have an easily understood division between news, comment and advertising.
- 7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
- 8) Highlight topical issues of concern to

people living in the county.

9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.

10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.

**We hope you enjoy Kent on Sunday.**





## Doddington Place Gardens

by **Maureen Gyles**

### WIN GREAT TICKETS EVERY MONTH!

IN February, March, April, May and June, if your picture appears on this page, you'll be included in a monthly draw to win a pair of tickets to the Leeds Castle Classical Concert - one of the highlights of the year and which takes place on July 9.

So send us your photographs today to be in with a chance!

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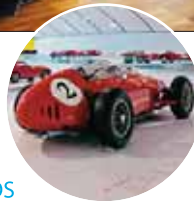
## Ferrari & Lamborghini - Live the Dream in Maranello

Escorted Holiday by Air

21 Oct, 2016 & 10 Mar, 2017 • Quote: FL-KOS

Come with us to Maranello and Modena in Northern Italy - home to legendary Ferrari and Lamborghini sports cars. Our four-day break takes in all the sights of Maranello including The Ferrari Museum and the Fiorano Test Track. We will also visit the Enzo Ferrari and Lamborghini Museums in Modena. No trip to Maranello would be complete without taking a Ferrari out for a spin. Test drives are possible with a host of models to choose from.

**INCLUDED:** Escorted throughout abroad • 3 nights B&B sharing a twin/double room at the 4-star Maranello Village Hotel plus 1 dinner • Admissions to: The Ferrari Museum, The Enzo Ferrari Museum PLUS guided bus tour inside the Fiorano test-track proving grounds and Viale Enzo Ferrari and The Lamborghini Museums • Return Easyjet flights London Gatwick to Bologna - hand luggage included • All transfers abroad



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19 September, 2016 • Quote: AB9-KOS

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**INCLUDED:** Escorted return rail travel from London St Pancras or Ebbsfleet or return flights with luggage from a choice of UK airports - supp't may apply • 7 night cruise sharing a twin rear cabin on Main Deck - upgrades available • Beer, wine, & soft drinks served at lunch and dinner and from 6pm to midnight at the bar • Morning and afternoon coffee/tea • Buffet breakfasts and lunches • Dinner served at your table - 4 courses • Late night snacks • Captain's dinner - 5 courses • Entertainment • Transfers abroad • Services of our Cruise Director on board



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4-star Hotel

## Railways of The Rhine

Escorted Holiday by Rail

10 Sept & 6 Oct, 2016 • Quote: RT-KOS

Discover the stunning scenery, romantic castles, lush vineyards and picturesque towns along the Rhine by rail, road and river. Staying in a four-star Rhine riverside hotel in Konigswinter, this holiday includes visits to historic Rudesheim, the Ahr Valley - a tributary of the Rhine and the heart of Germany's red wine country, a boat ride on the Rhine, a journey on the Cog Railway in Konigswinter and a trip on the Wuppertal suspension railway.

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4-star Hotel

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## Luxury London Paddlesteamer Cruise & inside Tower Bridge

Self Drive

24 Sept & 8 Oct, 2016 • Quote: WS9/10-KOS

Join us in London for a super break including 2 nights in the 4-Star Guoman Tower Hotel, a cruise on the paddlesteamer Waverley and entry to the Tower Bridge Experience. The Waverley is the last sea-going paddlesteamer in the world and was completely restored in 2003 to her original 1940s style. 2016 is a special year for the Waverley, marking 70 years since her launch in 1946. The Tower Bridge Exhibition is a must-see London attraction allowing you to step inside the most famous bridge in the world. Explore its iconic structure, spectacular views and glass floor - watch London life going on down below from 42 meters above the River Thames.

**INCLUDED:** 2 nights accommodation at the 4-Star Guoman Tower Hotel next to Tower Bridge • 2 breakfasts • PS Waverley cruise Tower Bridge to Southend and return • Admission to the Tower Bridge Exhibition including glass floor





By Steve Loader  
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

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**TO THE POWER OF 500:** the little supermini (left) sparked FIAT's revival... and its illustrious 1930s predecessor (right) helped build the original company



**HALO EFFECT:** the 124 Spider... reviving a FIAT star of the 1960s

## FIAT enjoying 500 dividend

**BRAND UPDATE:** Italian marque has soared with the number 500 and will add to that with halo and hatchback arrivals soon...

**F**IAT's favourite number is 500 or cinquecento. This figure helped build the modern day company when it adorned the Italian marque's original 1936-vintage 500 Topolino or 'Little Mouse' – a true 'people's car' that helped Italians take to four wheels.

Since then we have had two other significant 500s, including the modern supermini that revitalised FIAT's then ailing fortunes in 2007.

Now seen by the brand as something of a talisman, the same number has also been applied to several funky and practical MPVs – the 500L series – and a classy crossover, the 500X.

Backed by financial wherewithal derived from the 500, FIAT has also taken over and revitalised the American Chrysler group, looks to have finally come to grips with restoring Alfa Romeo to its rightful position as a premium sporting car brand, and is now addressing two further issues.

The first is the creation of a true halo car or brand image maker, and the other is finding a big brother to the 500 to attack the VW Golf, Ford Focus and Vauxhall Astra family hatch sector.

The former task seems settled: FIAT has looked to a glorious past again and recreated its beautiful 1960s roadster, the 124 Spider, by basing it on Mazda's latest and possibly greatest MX-5.

Using the Mazda's legendary chassis and



**ARRIVING SOON:** the Tipo hatchback will compete in a tough sector

balance, plus an elegant bespoke design and FIAT group engines, the 'Nuova' Spider is priced from £19,545 – just £1,000 more than the equivalent MX-5.

Arriving at about the same time, the new hatchback will revive the Tipo name applied to

FIAT's lacklustre 1988 contender in the same class.

It will be a belated replacement for the Bravo, itself a namesake for a previous effort in the same territory, but the signs are good: the new Tipo looks sharply styled and competitively priced from £13,000.



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Cherokee Night Eagle

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Representative

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**Jeep**

Model shown Jeep Cherokee 2.2 Night Eagle 4WD 9 Speed Automatic at £37,495 OTR including Metallic Paint at £700. OFFICIAL FUEL CONSUMPTION FIGURES FOR THE JEEP® CHEROKEE DIESEL RANGE IN MPG (L/100KM): EXTRA URBAN 53.3 (5.3) – 61.4 (4.6), URBAN 37.7 (7.5) – 44.1 (6.4), COMBINED 46.3 (6.1) – 53.3 (5.3). CO<sub>2</sub> EMISSIONS: 160 TO 139 G/KM. \*Customer deposit is £4,199. Jeep Deposit is £2,500. Total Deposit is £6,699. Optional Final Payment is £12,863. Contract Term is 48 months. Promotion available on Cherokee 2.2 Night Eagle 4WD 9 Speed Automatic registered by 30th June 2016. Jeep Deposit Contribution only available in conjunction with Jeep Horizon PCP. With Jeep Horizon you have the option to return the vehicle and not pay the final payment, subject to the vehicle not having exceeded an agreed annual mileage (a charge of 12p per mile for exceeding 10,000 miles per annum in this example) and being in good condition. Finance subject to status. Guarantees may be required. Terms and Conditions apply. Jeep Financial Services, PO Box 4465, Slough, SL1 0RW. We work with a number of creditors including Jeep Financial Services. Jeep® is a registered trademark of FCA US LLC. Jeep® is a registered trademark of FCA US LLC.

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*La meccanica delle emozioni*



Model shown is New Alfa Giulietta 1.4 TB 120 hp at £18,975 OTR incl. Stromboli Grey Special Paint at £525. Range of official fuel consumption figures for the Alfa Giulietta range: Urban 29.7 – 60.1 mpg (9.5 – 4.7 l/100km); Extra Urban 54.3–88.3 mpg (5.2 – 3.2 l/100km); Combined 41.5 – 74.3 mpg (6.8 – 3.8 l/100km). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 157–99 g/km. Fuel consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> figures are obtained for comparative purposes in accordance with EC directives/regulations and may not be representative of real-life driving conditions. \*Customer deposit is £1,559. Optional Final Payment is £5,593. Contract Term is 48 months. Promotion available on New Alfa Giulietta 1.4 TB 120 hp at £18,975 OTR registered between 1st April and 30th June 2016. Alfa Deposit Contribution only available in conjunction with Alfa Romeo Preferenza PCP. With Alfa Romeo Preferenza you have the option to return the vehicle and not pay the final payment, subject to the vehicle not having exceeded an agreed annual mileage (a charge of 6p per mile for exceeding 6,000 miles per annum in this example) and being in good condition. Finance subject to status. Guarantees may be required. Terms and Conditions apply. At participating Dealers only, Alfa Romeo Financial Services, PO Box 4465, Slough, SL1 0RW. We work with a number of creditors including Alfa Romeo Financial Services.



# Skoda's outdoor star car – the Yeti

It's easier to track down Skoda's 'Abominable Snowman' nowadays, thanks to clear divisions between city and country set Outdoor versions says **Steve Loader**

**C**ONFIRMING the Skoda Yeti's identity used to be as hard as tracking its namesake, the Abominable Snowman.

After launch in 2009, the Czech marque's jack-of-all trades was variously described as a crossover, eco-friendly holdall, family wagon, sportsman's rucksack, bullish 4x4, executive SUV, you name it...

So Skoda sought to clarify matters in 2014 by launching a heavily revamped 'New Yeti' in two distinct guises: Yeti plain and simple and Yeti Outdoor.

Both line-ups start from £17,210 and both can still be had with all-wheel drive, but there are no prizes for guessing that the Outdoor features 'funky chunky' 4x4-style add-ons and a slightly higher ride height, plus steeper approach and departure angles for cross-country 'yomping'.

Combine all that with a relatively modest £20,285 starting price for the Outdoor 4x4 versions and you get an impressive budget off-roader; even without a set of lower gear ratios, the Yeti has proven before that it can properly rough it off-road when fitted with 4x4. There's even a hill descent feature to keep you straight on any steep terrain.



Other tried and tested Yeti virtues remain: the practical boxy body – featuring trademark curvy front side windows – was always one of the most space-efficient and versatile in its sector.

It boasts many clever stowage tricks and delivers an airy view out – a panoramic roof is also available – generous head and legroom, and

three individual rear seats.

These can be adjusted for rake, slid forward or backwards, and folded in various permutations. The 510-litre boot is expandable into a van-like cargo area of 1,760 litres.

A high-lift, top-hinged tailgate also creates a useful rain shelter when 'grandstanding' and



picnicking at events.

The dashboard is typically and sensibly well arranged by Skoda, with a durable feel, and ride comfort and general on-road refinement is impressive for a car now in its latter years.

And there is also a greater sense of style on the outside gained from Skoda's latest corporate 'clipped

## Skoda Yeti Outdoor SE Technology 2.0 TDI 150PS 4x4 DSG

|                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Price:          | from £24,055   |
| Driving appeal: | ★★★★           |
| Image:          | ★★★★           |
| Space:          | ★★★★★          |
| Value:          | ★★★★★          |
| Running costs:  | ★★★★           |
| How green?:     | ★★★            |
| Best rival:     | Nissan Qashqai |

moustache' grille, replacing the frumpy and curvaceous chrome-topped job on early Yetis.

Our test car was a Yeti Outdoor in upmarket SE Business trim with 2.0-litre 150PS (148bhp) diesel – a smooth yet powerful and economical partner to the 4x4 format.

With the VW's group's smooth and efficient twin-clutch auto/manual DFG gearbox (£1,100 extra), this weighs in at £24,055.

Badge snobs can puff their cheeks and exhale as loudly as they wish, but the Yeti carries it off rather well and looks excellent value when judged on merit.

And if all this isn't enough to silence diehard Skoda-knockers, there is the Yeti's snappy on-road behaviour to admire too, with responsive steering, and well-mannered handling and cornering – even in our relatively high Outdoor version.

## Test-drive the new Hyundai i30 at Kent Hyundai.



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### Representative finance example:

|                                |            |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Model                          | i30 1.4i S |
| Terms of agreement             | 37 months  |
| Monthly payments of            | £186.84    |
| On the road cash price*        | £12995.00  |
| Customer deposit               | £2748.75   |
| Manufacturers Finance          |            |
| deposit contribution           | £500.00    |
| Total deposit                  | £3248.75   |
| Total amount of credit         | £9746.25   |
| Interest charges               | £1484.99   |
| Optional final payment         | £4505.00   |
| Total amount payable           | £14479.99  |
| Interest Rate % (fixed)        | 3.55% p.a. |
| Excess mileage charge per mile | 14.9p      |
| Estimated annual mileage       | 10000      |
| Representative APR (%)         | 6.9% APR   |



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# Rouse still happy as Billings cover

The wicketkeeper has impressed when called upon this year

## Cricket

By Mark Pennell

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

ADAM Rouse will be cursing his luck as he faces a month on the sidelines after suffering a double finger dislocation and fracture.

Kent's understudy wicketkeeper has provided solid cover for England international Sam Billings in recent weeks, leading the county championship dismissals table at the start of the summer.

The Zimbabwe-born gloveman returned to the county second string once Billings returned from IPL duty, but still accepted his demotion, albeit an expected one, with good grace and humility.

"You could say I've had a bit of an up and down career so far, but there's no doubt that during those first five championship games of the season I kept-wicket as well as I have at any stage so far," he said.

"My longest playing stint previously was with Gloucestershire, and I felt I kept pretty well there too, but I got into a nice rhythm for Kent early on and felt nice and relaxed.

"I knew what the situation would be regarding understudying 'Bilbo' and quickly got my head around the fact once he did come back.

"He's an international player fresh from the IPL, so of course he had to go straight into the Kent side, but at least I'd been able to show what I could do in the meantime."

Events took an unexpected twist for Rouse last weekend when, on Saturday, Billings took a blow on the thumb from Calum Haggett whilst netting with the Kent squad on the



**INJURED:** Kent's backup wicketkeeper Adam Rouse

eve of their county championship match with Glamorgan.

Rouse was recalled and made five first-innings catches but suffered an injury when using the bat.

Billings will hope to start Kent's four-day clash with Derbyshire in Canterbury from Sunday and is

scheduled to remain with the county until their T20 Blast clash with Essex at Chelmsford on July 1.

Rouse, meanwhile, will be hoping to bounce back from this setback and prove his worth for the remainder of the season.

## Podium finishes for Sittingbourne speed teen

### Motorsport

SITTINGBOURNE'S teenage racing sensation Luke Hopkins secured podium finishes in both his Team Green Junior Cup races in Cheshire last weekend.

Lining up seventh on the grid in the first race on Saturday, Luke, 13, made a great start moving up to third in his class.

On the fifth of the eight lap race, Luke had to take evasive action when braking into Hislop's chicane in order to avoid another rider, and though he managed to re-join the race without difficulty he lost valuable time from the front runners and found himself two seconds behind going into the final lap and had to settle for a respectable third placed finish. Race two

**kentnews.co.uk kent-life.co.uk**



**LUKE:** Photo by John Manclark

saw him shoot into the lead as the lights went out, finishing the first lap 0.775 seconds ahead of a

chasing group of three other riders. Unable to break-away however, these four riders battled throughout the second race, but it was Luke that held the lead.

On the final lap of the race the leaders came across some back markers and Luke was held up which enabled Joey Lambden to take the lead and snatch victory from the Sittingbourne rider at the line.

Having led almost the entire race it was cruel luck that denied Luke his second win of the season.

He said afterwards: "In race one I made a good start, but on lap six I had to avoid another rider going into Hislop's which cost me a lot of time but I recovered and I got a podium.

"The positive thing is I managed to gain points on both the riders ahead of me in the championship."

North & West

## Sport Shorts » Email [sports@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:sports@kosmedia.co.uk) or call Tom Pyman on 01233653477

## Gillingham to travel to Southend on first day

GILLINGHAM will begin their quest for promotion from League One in the 2016/17 season with a trip to Southend United.

Justin Edinburgh's side make the short journey to Roots Hall in Essex on Saturday, August 6, before hosting Bury in the first home game of the season at Priestfield the following weekend.

All eyes will be fixed on Medway when Charlton Athletic, with whom the club hold a historic rivalry, visit on October 22 following their relegation from the Championship, before the Gills travel to The Valley for the return fixture on April 17.

On Boxing Day, Gillingham travel to Peterborough, and host Chesterfield on Valentine's Day.

Fleetwood Town are the final visitors to Priestfield on April 22, with the Gills rounding off their season with a trip to Northampton Town on the final day.

Meanwhile, goalkeeper Stuart Nelson signed a new deal at the club.



**BOSS:** Justin Edinburgh



**STONEBRIDGE:** Home of Ebbsfleet United

## Bubb re-united with McMahon at Ebbsfleet

EBBSFLEET United have completed the signing of free-scoring striker Bradley Bubb from league rivals Oxford City.

The striker, 28, was out of contract at his previous club having scored 18 goals in the National League South and 24 in all competitions last season.

A former QPR youth player, he then moved to Farnborough in 2009

and helped them to promotion from the Southern League and, alongside current Fleet boss Daryl McMahon, was a key part of their run to the Conference South promotion final in 2010/11.

Bubb is also a Grenadian international having earned 10 caps in the CONCACAF Gold Cup and Caribbean Cup for the Spice Boys between 2010 and 2012.

## Bellingham bags debut victory

ORPINGTON'S Alex Bellingham got his Queensbury Boxing League career off to a winning start at the weekend despite being thrown a late change of opponent.

Bellingham, 22, was scheduled to meet Kasper Dudzinski on his debut in the televised boxing series, but the Pole withdrew from the showdown on the morning of the event, citing a damaged hand.

Instead, Bellingham fought London prospect Jerome Prince and claimed a unanimous points victory.

He said afterwards: "Prince was an unknown and also a southpaw which again was not something I'd prepared for.

"But at the end of the day he's got two arms and two legs and he was there to fight and he was a really good boxer."

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